



Budget Committee Meeting

Minutes

October 23, 2025, 7:00 PM

Open the Meeting and Roll Call

Chair Mike Cutting opened the Budget Committee meeting at 7:17 PM.

Budget Committee Members Present: Michael Cutting (Chair), Ray Martin, James Sherman and Kelly Lombardi. Rick Bixby and Robert Blake via Zoom. Bill Hanson was absent.

Select Board: Chairman Harry Seidel, Vice Chair Alfred Hanson. Mike Smith via Zoom.

Harry Seidel made a motion seconded by Alfred Hanson to call to order the Select Board meeting. Roll Call Vote Hanson YES Seidel YES Smith YES

Approval of Minutes • October 16, 2025

James Sherman made a motion seconded by Ray Martin to accept the October 16, 2025 meeting minutes. Motion Passed.

Presentation of 2026 Budget

Police Department: Police Chief Bill Chandler

Police Department Budget as proposed is \$454,060 Chief Chandler explained that the wages in the proposed budget does not reflect COLA

Department Head wages: \$67,223

Other Wages: \$248,449 includes the sign on bonus for two people.

Secretarial Wages: \$64,085

Custodial Wages: \$2,348

OT wages: \$12,027

Part time wages: \$1

Telephone: \$ 3,500 no change

Computer Hardware: none

Computer Software: none

Managed IT: none

Mike Cutting asked about the accounting of Managed IT Care. Alfred Hanson explained that the data has not been analyzed yet.

Contract Services: proposed \$16,436 Chief Chandler has a figure of \$16,731 The amount to be revised to \$16,731 (County attorney \$2,277, Dispatch \$7,831, alarm monitoring \$500, copy machine \$685, IMC \$4828, RSA \$110, Woodlawn \$500)

Electricity: no change \$3,500

Heating fuel propane: \$2,820 budget to be adjusted

Water/Sewer: \$1,000 no change

Uniforms: \$2,500 no changed

Equipment maintenance / purchase: \$3,830 no change (taser, radar, radio programming etc...)

Cruiser fuel: \$6,000 no change

Cruiser expense: \$3,000 no change

1 Bill Chandler stated that the 2017 cruiser must be traded in this year. He stated that he will take
2 another look at his CIP to see if there is anything he can adjust. He spoke about possibly putting
3 forward a warrant article for less than \$25,000.

4 Safety Equipment: no change \$1,240

5 Annual Training: no change \$2,500

6 Mileage: no change

7 Special Detail: no change \$10,500

8 There was a discussion regarding the payroll rate for festival workers. Chief Chandler stated that
9 it might be wise to increase the rate to \$60. He stated that he supports waiting a year before
10 implementing a payroll rate increase.

11 Building Maintenance: \$3,500 Chief Chandler stated that this could be reduced to \$3,140

12 Grants: \$1

13 Total Budget \$456,398 increased by \$32,710 7.7% Mike Cutting asked what the impact would
14 be if the Budget Committee wanted the Police Department Budget to remain the same as last
15 year (\$423,688). Chief Chandler stated that services (police officer) would go down. He stressed
16 that his budget does have fat. He explained that having a third officer makes all the difference.
17 He spoke about the importance of proactive patrol. Chief Chandler explained that there will be a
18 need in the future to hire another police officer. Chief Chandler spoke about the responsibilities
19 of the Police Chief Secretary and the asset she is to the department.

20
21 **Fire Department:** Fire Chief John France

22 Fire Department Budget 239,720

23 Ambulance: 2025 was \$89,190, 2026 amount is being negotiated. Mike Cutting stated that New
24 London and Henniker have ambulance service. Chief France stated that he has not approached
25 either town. Harry Seidel explained that it is doubtful that New London or Henniker would be a
26 viable options due to distance. Mike Cutting would like to know if they are an option sooner
27 rather than later. Harry Seidel explained that meetings are being coordinated with the Town of
28 Webster and Hopkinton. There was a discussion relating to the 2026 proposed increase of
29 \$241,000. John France explained that the \$241,000 is not unreasonable for ambulance service.

30 Stipends: \$21,030 no change

31 Wages: proposed was \$93,000 reduced to \$90,640

32 Telephone: \$1,500 no change

33 Computer Software: \$ 2,100

34 Computer Hardware: \$1

35 Managed IT: \$1

36 Electricity: \$10,876 no change

37 Water/Sewer: \$500 no change

38 Equipment Maintenance: \$6,500

39 Medical Supplies: no change

40 Equipment replacement: \$22,840

41 In-House Training: \$17,000

42 Propane: \$3,000 increased by \$1,000

43 Mileage: \$250

44 Fire Expenses: \$100 no change

45 Fire Prevention: \$200 no change

46 Training: \$3,000

Dispatch Services: \$35,262
Radio Maintenance: \$1,000
Building Maintenance: \$5,000
Total Amended Budget: \$237,360

Forest Fire: \$2,000 no change

Nothing spent in 2025. Chief France explained that in the past this fund has been used to purchase equipment and it helps offset the cost of the agency. Ed Mical explained that historically the Forest Fire money was used to pay for forest fires and not the Fire Department operating budget. Chief France stated that the Paul Raymond the Fire Warden is considering a purchase of equipment.

Emergency Management: Director Ed Mical

Emergency Management budget: \$17,627 increases by \$7,000 for a grant that will be reimbursed. Ed Mical explained that the grant is to offset the cost of updating Warner's Hazardous Mitigation Plan. He spoke about the need to update the Emergency Operations Plan.

Mileage: increase by \$50

The only change to the budget is \$50 in mileage.

Meeting Schedule:

Next meeting on November 6, 2025 will review the budgets for the Highway Department and Transfer Station.

Kelly Lombardi stated that she will not be at the next meeting. Rick Bixby stated that he will be in attendance. Robert Blake stated that he returns on November 5th.

Adjournment

Ray Martin made a motion seconded by James Sherman to adjourn the Budget Committee meeting. Motion passed.

Alfred Hanson made a motion seconded by Harry Seidel to adjourn the Select Board meeting. Roll Call Vote Hanson YES Seidel YES Smith YES

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM

Respectfully submitted by Tracy Doherty