

PRESENT: Calouro, Sweeney, Teixeira, Parella, and Ley

ALSO PRESENT: Steven Contente, Town Administrator
Julie Goucher, Town Treasurer

The Council met in workshop session on Wednesday evening, March 20, 2019 in the Town Hall, Council Chambers, beginning at 6:32 o'clock PM, Council Chairman Calouro presiding.

Comment re Water Pollution Control Budget

Town Administrator Contente noted that Christopher Cronin reports that the original EPA fine was \$163,750 and that amount has been reduced to \$107,500. He added that it will be very likely that the funds will be reapplied to the Town to make improvements to the sewer system.

This matter is informational only and the Council took no action.

406 - Board of Canvassers
Louis P. Cirillo, Clerk

The Clerk reported that the budget is as in previous years with the exception of the amount of \$16,000 which was added to the Elections line by the Town Administrator. He explained that the Town received news that the Governor's budget includes a provision to legalize recreational marijuana that may require a local referendum if the Town wishes to put forth limitations on its commercialization in Bristol.

The Council made no changes to this budget as recommended.

806 - Municipal Observances (Fourth of July line only)
Michele Martins, Vice-Chairman

Ms. Martins informed the Council that the Committee appreciates the \$18,500 recommended by the Administrator and that it would also welcome more. She noted that the Committee raises approximately \$400,000 for the celebration overall.

Councilwoman Parella noted that the Town's in-kind contribution to the celebration for overtime, special constables, etc. is approximately \$200,000.

The Council made no changes to this budget as recommended.

405 - Boards and Commissions

Steven Contente, Town Administrator

Town Administrator Contente reported that the East Burial Ground Fence welding project will be a winter project for the DPW.

Council Chairman Calouro stated that he believes that the Town allocated \$10,000 to the fence project in the past.

Town Treasurer Goucher agreed to research this.

Town Administrator Contente also reported that the amount allocated to the Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force will cover a salary shortfall in the grant funding.

The Council made no changes to this budget as recommended.

704 - Fire Department

Michael DeMello, Chief

Chief DeMello reviewed some of the line items with changes indicating that the Breathing Apparatus line was reduced in favor of the Special Events lines due to experience with expenditures on both lines.

A discussion ensued regarding the incentive stipend with Fire Chief DeMello explaining that this will be the first year for the stipend and that the program is experimental at this point.

A further discussion ensued regarding response times and the various roles of the office staff, the volunteers and the police department toward meeting the goal response time of 3-6 minutes.

Councilman Ley asked to know if performance indicators were tracked and that these may provide ideas for improvement.

Fire Chief DeMello noted that the department tracks calls and is always looking for areas for improvement.

Councilman Ley asked to know if there is a tracking of fire inspection costs.

Fire Chief DeMello explained that inspections vary greatly and that some are very easy and others, like a RWU dormitory, can take a very long time to complete.

Councilwoman Parella noted that the Chief provides information in his periodic reports.

Fire Chief DeMello also reported that the application for volunteer firefighters is on line and that those who are enrolled in the incentive program appreciate the Council's efforts toward the realization of this project.

The Council made no changes to this budget as recommended.

Discussion of Town Administrator's recommended level of funding for the Regional School District

Town Treasurer Goucher provided a spreadsheet with possible levels of funding. A discussion ensued regarding the tax rate as it relates to the level of school funding.

Town Treasurer Goucher also provided instruction to Council members in their use of the calculator provided by her.

The Council took no action on this item.

There being no further business, upon a motion by Councilman Sweeney, seconded by Councilman Teixeira and voted unanimously, the Chairman declared this meeting to be adjourned at 7:35 o'clock PM.

Louis P. Cirillo, CMC, Council Clerk