



OFFICE OF THE CLERK/TREASURER

City of Burlington

City Hall, Room 20, 149 Church Street, Burlington, VT 05401

Voice (802) 865-7000
Fax (802) 865-7014
TTY (802) 865-7142

FOR APPROVAL

BOARD OF FINANCE

January 13, 2011

MINUTES OF MEETING

Mayor Kiss convened the meeting of the Board of Finance at 5:05 p.m. with President Keogh, Councilor Paul, Councilor Wright, Mayor Kiss and Assistant CAO Schrader present. Others present: Councilor Bushor, Assistant CAO Rich Goodwin; Police Chief Schirling, Lise Veronneau, Police Department Business Administrator; Larry Kupferman, CEDO Director; Fire Chief Michael O'Neal, Deputy Fire Chief Bruce Bourgeois; William Ward, Director of Code Enforcement

1. Agenda

There being no changes to the agenda, the agenda was approved.

2. 2012 Requested Budget - Police

Chief of Police Schirling presented the 2012 Police budget outlining the activities within the Department, including calls for service, staffing, etc. Chief Schirling explained that growth within the Police budget is being driven by personnel costs. He also explained that the budget, beginning in 2008 and continuing today, has been remodeled to include many aspects that were missing, allowing for a solid foundation and minimizing the need for additional funding. Chief explained that there have been numerous alterations in processes during the past few years but that there are still areas that need attention. Chief Schirling offered the example of court call back being the number one driving force of overtime within the Department. Chief Schirling stated that the budget has not changed dramatically from 2011 with the following exceptions: Training increased by \$10,000; an increase of \$6,200 for two reporting systems; \$2,000 for non-lethal munitions training. Chief Schirling provided the Board with information regarding the requested reduction of 3% from 2011 stating that the only area within the budget to accommodate such a cut would be personnel; meaning that a reduction of 3 to 4 FTE's would most likely be the result. In response to questions from the Board, Chief Schirling stated that it would have to be seen whether a risk to public safety would be the result of the loss of FTE's. He did state that there would definitely be an impact on services. Chief Schirling provided information on the duties and responsibilities of the School Resource Officers and how those services end up saving money in the long run through education and prevention and intervention. Chief Schirling provided the Board his perspective on Regionalization, particularly in communications and what it would take to foster regionalization to overcome the obstacles of local politics, labor agreements, and existing infrastructure.

3. 2012 Requested Budget – Fire

Chief Mike O’Neal presented the 2012 Fire Department budget request. Chief O’Neal provided an overview of the Fire Department, including the net impact to the General Fund, the Departments and services provided, staffing and calls for service. The Chief also provided the changes to 2012 from 2011, primarily in wages and MIR 3 Emergency call for service system. Chief O’Neal stated that the reduction that has been asked of departments would require a reduction in staffing of approximately 3 to 4 firefighters which would run contrary to minimum staffing requirements in the union contracts and would increase overtime. In essence, the only way to affect the savings would be to close a fire station which increases response time. In response to questions from the Board, Chief O’Neal provided an update on the various staffing and station studies that have been conducted locally and nationally. He also explained that the impact of the proposed cuts causes a long term problem with personnel by increasing injuries, worker’s compensation claims and potentially increased liability claims. Chief O’Neal provided his perceptions on regionalization of emergency communications and dispatch.

4. 2012 Requested Budget – Code Enforcement

William Ward presented the 2012 Code Enforcement Department budget request. He provided an overview of the services provided, staffing, and outlined the expenses and revenue of his department and the changes from 2011. He also addressed the Board on the proposal to cut the departmental budget by 3% which would relate to a \$4,200 cut in the departmental budget request. He indicated that the temporary help line item and the telephone service line items would be reduced to meet that cut. He stated that these funds are proposed to locate unregistered rentals within the City. Without these funds, this initiative would be severely curtailed. Mr. Ward provided additional detail into revenue projections for the department for 2012 and the anticipated increases in each category due to increased diligence by his department in enforcing the penalty provisions within the Code.

There being no further business of the Board, the meeting of the Board of Finance was then adjourned at 5:45 p.m.