

## MINUTES

**SELECT BOARD WORK SESSION  
TOWN HALL - UPSTAIRS**

**June 3, 2024  
5:00 PM**

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### **ATTENDEES:**

**Select board members:** Leon Rideout, Shane Beattie, Kathy-Jean Lavoie

**Others in Attendance:** Charity Baker, Michael Nadeau, Robin Irving, Chief Jon Woodworth, Lt. Rian Matthews, /\*Chief Randy Flynn, Members of the Public

**Proposed Police K9 program** – Chief Woodworth and Lt. Matthews were present to answer any questions the board had regarding the proposed K9 program. Kathy-Jean asked how they found the need for a drug dog and not another discipline. Chief Woodworth and Lt. Matthews went through the process they went through to put together the proposal for the board.

Kathy-Jean wanted to know how they would be able to make more arrests and prosecutions by having a drug dog. Lt. Matthews and Chief Woodworth explained during a traffic stop, even though they may suspect drugs in the vehicle it is not enough for them to be able to search the vehicle however it is enough for them to call for the drug dog and if the dog alerts/indicates that drugs are present that gives them probable cause to seize the vehicle and find the drugs.

Chief Woodworth stated he can't guaranty what happens in the court system. Leon stated he feels the dog is another tool to find the drugs to move forward with prosecuting.

It was also explained the dog would be used to find non-violent missing persons.

Kathy-Jean asked if the department will be short-handed while he is at training. Chief Woodworth mentioned he will be fully staffed after the newest officer graduates from the academy in November which will allow for Lt. Matthews to attend training.

There was much discussion on the logistics and how the dog would be used. There was concern with the possibility of Lt. Matthews leaving the department after the expense of purchasing the dog, outfitting a cruiser and all the training. Chief Woodworth and Lt. Matthews both stated they also discussed that and Lt. Matthews has assured the Chief that he is not going anywhere.

The Chief explained neighboring towns will be able to reach out to Matthews to have him respond with the dog and it will be up to Matthew's as the handler to determine if it is warranted for him to respond. He also stated they have a very good working relationship with the other towns and state police.

Kathy-Jean expressed concern that Lancaster will be fronting the costs for this resource. The Chief stated he would not be in favor of billing the other towns.

Chief Woodworth asked when the board would make a decision so they can start moving forward if they approve the program. Leon mentioned they will discuss and take a vote at the regular meeting following the work session.

**Fire/EMS Town Contracts** – Kathy-Jean went through all the existing contracts and the increases over the last several years to come up with the cost for 911 coverage provided by the department

in order to come up with a per capita rate. She reviewed her spreadsheet created to come up with the new rates. Rate spreadsheet attached.

Her calculations show they should be charging \$82 per capita for each of the towns. She mentioned the town that would take the biggest hit is Jefferson as their population has increased considerably.

There was much discussion regarding a step increase over the next several years. \$65 for 2025, \$75 for 2026 & \$85 for 2027.

As far as the fire contract with the Town of Guildhall, Randy mentioned there are minimal calls to Guildhall and with so few calls Kathy-Jean feels they should leave it the same. Randy mentioned they can bill them for individual calls if warranted.

The board then discussed the ARPA funds that are available for water/sewer projects with Robin Irving and it was mentioned they would need to encumber the money by the end of the year and make sure they spend it by the end of 2026. Leon mentioned there is work that needs to be done now.

Kathy-Jean asked if there is a match to the available funds and Robin said no it was moneys given based on population.

Leon asked if the Congressional money is going to take three years to trickle down. Robin mentioned she has a mandatory training regarding that tomorrow and will ask.

**Police Mutual Aid Agreement** – Chief Woodworth reviewed his concerns with the agreement with Northumberland and explained the changes he made to the agreement. He mentioned the changed agreement will be the agreement with all neighboring communities. Leon feels the agreement is pretty standard and is good with it.

**Town Ordinances** – Chief Woodworth presented several ordinance that have been updated. There was much discussion with the regards to updates to the parking ordinance and who has the authority to designate parking along the streets. The board is going to review the other ordinances that have been updated and discuss with the Chief further.

The work session ended at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Board of Selectmen Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Charity M. Baker

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Leon Rideout

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Shane Beattie

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Kathy-Jean Lavoie