



1. Increased to 50hrs/wk beginning in July, which will meet the state standard for accreditation, leading to more state aid.
    - iii. Increased tax relief for seniors
      1. Increase in 41c½ exemption by 25% to \$625
  - e. Areas that were not funded in this budget: Community and Economic Development Projects.
  - f. An explanation of changes to Capital Planning was provided. Due to the dissolvement of the Capital Improvement Committee, grant funding was utilized to contract with the Collin's Center. The plan, now drafted, will be presented by the Collin's Center in March to the Finance Committee.
3. Overview of Community Programs – Jen Ball, Assistant Town Manager
  - a. **See presentation**
  - b. Counsel on Aging – 1000 served
    - i. New programs with grant support will link seniors with preschoolers in a gardening program and middle schoolers with seniors to conduct historical interviews.
  - c. Recreation Department – Safe and enjoyable programs serve the entire community
    - i. Over 30 programs last year included ~1900 participants
    - ii. Department is supported by a Director and an Asst. Director
  - d. Youth and Family Services- Food pantry, Federal Assistance programs, Ashland Emergency fund
    - i. Addition of one position to serve as an intake specialist for seniors, youth and the community at large.
    - ii. Addition of a Prevention Outreach coordinator is proposed to coordinate services for those in need, or families of those in need, of treatment or dealing with issues of addiction.
4. Ashland Police Department Budget Review – Chief Craig Davis
  - a. **See attached proposed APD Budget**
  - b. Each year there are 3650 Patrol Shifts, requiring 205 shifts/officer/year. The minimum number of officers to fulfill this requirement is 18.
  - c. Any time off requires by an officer requires overtime by a covering officer.
    - i. Overtime: If we wanted to alleviate overtime pay altogether, an addition of ~6 officers would need to be added full time to the department.
  - d. According to FBI metrics, local police departments should be staffed with 1.8 officers per capita. Accordingly, Ashland should have 29-30 officers (we have 18).
  - e. FY18 Budget increase is related to increased COLA and changes in current officers Steps.
  - f. Forecast: The Chief would like to see the addition of 1 officer/year for the next several years to build a strong, experienced department, accounting for both departmental attrition and growth in the town.
  - g. Original FY18 budget request for the addition of 2 officers and a Deputy Chief.

5. Ashland Fire Department Budget Review- Chief Scott Boothby
  - a. **See budget attachment**
  - b. Request for a Deputy Fire Chief position
    - i. The Captain is in the collective bargaining unit; a Deputy Chief would be out of the Union
    - ii. Addition of a Deputy Chief would add another chief officer to the scene of a fire as well as to offer some relief to the Chief who must respond to every fire call.
  - c. Addition of 2 Firefighters
    - i. Current staffing allows for 3 shifts of 4 and 1 shift of 5.
    - ii. The new positions will allow for response to two simultaneous or in-progress calls.
    - iii. For full staffing, all shifts would need to have 6 fire fighters; total of 24
  - d. In FY16 the AFD responded to ~2200 calls, an increase of ~6%
    - i. An increase in call volume is noticed following Ashland growth in the senior development communities on Pond St. and Union St. (~2 calls/wk)
  
6. Ashland Department of Public Works – Director Doug Smalls
  - a. **See presentation attachment**
  - b. Overall decrease in departmental budget of 1.6%
  - c. There are currently 4 employees in the Highway Dept. and 3 in the Cemetery Dept. Additionally, there is 1 foreman and 1 mechanic; there is 1 vacancy in the department.
  - d. The Finance Committee agreed to schedule a tour of the DPW facilities.
  
7. Town of Ashland Municipal Budget Review – Brittany Iacaponi, Ashland Finance Director
  - a. **See attached municipal town budget.**
  
8. Review and approve minutes, and take any action or vote related thereto.
  - a. Vote to approve Meeting Minutes from 01/10/17 Finance Committee Meeting
    - i. Moved to approve: Maribeth Morrissey
    - ii. Second: Jonathan Moore
    - iii. Vote: 6-0 In favor
  
9. NEXT MEETING: February 7, 2017
  
10. Adjourn:
 

Moved: The Chair moved to adjourn the meeting at 9PM

Second: Jonathan Moore

**Vote:** 6-0 in favor

List of Documents Presented at Meeting

- See attachments as noted in minutes above.