

**NORFOLK BOARD OF FINANCE
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 11, 2020 MEETING**

Members present were: M. Sconyers, G. Allyn, G. Mudge N. Ritson and J. Torrant.

Alternate members present were: S. Anderson; L. Battis and A. Bennett

Members absent: D. Torrey

L. Battis was appointed to fill in for D. Torrey.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by M. Sconyers.

Minutes of the January 14, 2020 meeting were approved on a motion by G. Allyn, second by J. Torrant and unanimously approved.

Matt Ludwig represented the Norfolk Volunteer Fire Department. He thanked the Town for its support and spoke at length about the NVFD's 5-year plan. Their budget for next year is \$97,045. They do not budget on the annual appeal. They coordinate with and assist the ambulance and they have a very good working relationship. Mr. Ludwig talked about insurance ratings; Norfolk has an ISO rating of 5. The priority with the firehouse project is the bays, bathrooms, and decontamination chamber.

Kitty Hickox from Norfolk Ambulance confirmed that the Ambulance benefits from insurance, gas, and the building, which are all provided by the Town. She reported that their operating budget has been flat at approximately \$30,000.00 and that none of this money comes from the Town. Last year they responded to 240 calls. They have 44 members, 22 are full-time. The Norfolk Lions Club is the Fiduciary for the Norfolk Ambulance, which is a non-profit. A new ambulance is needed approximately every 10 years. Staffing daytime hours is one of the biggest challenges. The Norfolk Ambulance is 100% volunteer, 1 of only 3 left in the State. They do not bill insurance, Medicare nor Medicaid. They support half of Colebrook and roughly 40 calls from Winsted per year.

Both the NVFD and Norfolk Ambulance expressed the importance of recruitment and retention of their volunteer staff.

Under correspondence, the Tax Collector's request to issue 2 reimbursements was approved on a motion by M. Sconyers, second by G. Allyn and unanimously approved.

The First Selectman reported that the new Public Works Superintendent is working out very well. The Board of Selectmen will have their budget ready to discuss at the next meeting on March 10, 2020. The larger expenses for the next 10 years include financing the Mountain Road Bridge; oil tank replacement at Botelle School; the need for a new fire house. Various repairs and replacements are estimated at \$13.8 million over the next 10 years. There is some concern about what happens if state funding is not received to offset these various projects.

The First Selectman reported that plowing and sanding trucks have been out 25 times. He emphasized what a pleasure it has been to work with the Norfolk Volunteer Fire Department.

There was nothing under 2/3 vote.

There was nothing under public comment.

On Motion of J. Tarrant, second by N. Ritson and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer M. Ryan, Secretary

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