

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Town of East Windsor
East Windsor, Connecticut

Budget Workshop Meeting

Tuesday, February 17, 2015

Board of Selectmen

Members Present: Denise Menard, Jason E. Bowsza, Steve Dearborn, Dale Nelson, and James C. Richards

Others Present: Chief Edward DeMarco, Deputy Chief Roger Hart, Ed Filipone, Bob Leach, and Tom Stremper

Press: Journal Inquirer

Call to Order

First Selectman Denise Menard called the Budget Workshop Meeting to Order at 6:00 p.m. in the East Windsor Town Hall.

Attendance

Denise Menard, First Selectman
Jason E. Bowsza, Deputy First Selectman
Steve Dearborn, Selectman
Dale Nelson, Selectman
James C. Richards, Selectman

Budget Presentations

- **Police Department (51200)**

Chief DeMarco presented a budget that allows the Police Department to maintain their current staffing level. He wanted to discuss possibly adjusting their budget. Chief DeMarco submitted a 5% budget and explained that he wanted to adjust one of the non-contractual lines, Officer Salary Overtime. He does not feel comfortable with the amount that is currently being requested. He said the request for increase in this line is because that this year is a contractual year so they will not know what pay raises are, on July 1st the overtime rate will be higher than it is now, and he also explained that there are retirements that are expected to happen this year. Chief DeMarco stated that Officer Salary Overtime is a non-contractual line since the amount of overtime hours fluctuate and it is difficult to predict what will happen between traffic, new businesses, court time, and crime scenes. Chief DeMarco explained that he predicts this coming year to be similar to this passed one in terms of traffic, new businesses, court time, and crime scenes. He requested to add \$50,000.00 to the variable overtime line for a 7.55% increase.

Chief DeMarco and Deputy Chief Hart discussed comparisons from last year to this year to arrive at the numbers they are presenting for this following year. Chief DeMarco and Deputy Chief Hart are going to submit a new request of the page with the requested change on it.

- **Emergency Management (510300)**

Chief DeMarco informed the Board of Selectmen that the Police Officers were just imposed upon with an entirely new course of training that has to be completed by the end of this year and it is an extremely large amount of training including courses you have to attend that are 2 to 3 days long, and there are 9 to 10 courses that need to be taken online at 3 to 4 hours each requiring more money to fund than the amount currently presented. Chief DeMarco is requesting a \$900.00 increase.

- **Capital Improvements (910700)**

Chief DeMarco said that their biggest concern is their cruiser rotation system. He stated that his cruiser rotation is weak and it puts the Police Department in such a bind. Chief DeMarco said that that it is difficult to maintain their fleet without costs soaring for the maintenance to the cruisers. Mr. Tom Stempfer expressed that police cars are just as critical as weapons are for police officers because they use the cruisers to do their job. Deputy Roger Hart stated that they have 17 cars that are on the road 24 hours a day and 7 days per week, and if only two are being replaced every year then it will take 8 years to turn the fleet over. Chief DeMarco asked if instead of the \$74,000 line for Vehicles and \$39,310 line for Digital In-car Video, that the two lines be combined and titled "Cruiser and Cruiser Equipment".

Motion was made to adjourn 6:57 p.m. Moved (Bowsza) and Seconded (Nelson).

Respectfully submitted,



Amanda Schroll
Recording Secretary