

**Board of Selectmen**  
**October 3, 2022**

**Present:** Richard C. Edwards, Chair; Kenneth G. Fifield; Dino A. Scala, Town Administrator; and Toni Bodah, Secretary. Mr. Edwards called the posted meeting to order at 5:09 p.m., the purpose being to continue review of the proposed 2023 municipal budget.

**Wakefield Library – Nancy & Chris Bancroft**

Ms. Bancroft stated that the request has been adjusted to \$14,975 due to the increased cost of electricity and heating fuel. Mr. Fifield suggested adding another \$200 to help offset the increase in electricity. **Mr. Fifield moved the revised request at \$15,175. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.**

**Gafney Library & Literacy Program – Dick DesRoches and Beryl Donovan**

Mr. DesRoches referred to several areas of their budget increasing. He noted that this larger building will be more energy-efficient. They hope to use the same cleaning service used by Town Hall. They will again be paying for sewer. Electricity costs are up, as is heating fuel. If they have estimated too high on electricity and/or fuel, the overage will be rolled over and applied to next year's request. This budget also reflects COLA increases for staff.

Mr. Edwards asked about revenue. Mr. DesRoches stated that they don't charge for services, but they do accept donations. Ms. Donovan added that the larger facility will allow them to accommodate more services for the community, but will not generate revenue. **Mr. Fifield moved the request at \$162,600. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.** Briefly discussed the percentages used for developing funding requests for Brookfield and Wakefield.

**Literacy Program – Dick DesRoches and Beryl Donovan**

Although the number of participants was lower during the pandemic, staff continued to work virtually with participants. Approximately \$8000 of the Town's \$25,000 contribution was not used in 2021. Discussion followed as to whether the 2023 request should be adjusted in light of the \$8000 not being used and remaining in the Library's account. Ultimately it was decided that if a 'cushion' remains at the end of 2023, the Selectmen may choose to trim the 2024 request. **Mr. Fifield moved the request at \$25,000. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.**

**Ambulance – Chief Todd Nason**

Chief Nason advised this request includes 2 new fulltime staff members, as of June 1, 2023, as well as anticipated merit increases. He and his staff agree that they would prefer additional staff to an adjustment of the wage lines. Chief Nason stated that back-to-back calls are proving very difficult. Additional personnel would allow for another individual to start a call when the 2 other staff members are out on a call. Chief Nason confirmed that staff members are making an effort to obtain more information at the time of a call in order to facilitate ultimate billing for same. **Mr. Fifield moved the section total at \$610,039. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.**

**General Fire – Chief Todd Nason**

Chief Nason has tried to keep salaries level. As the trucks get older, we must increase the anticipated cost of maintenance. In response to Mr. Edwards, Chief Nason stated that CRF appropriations are not keeping up with the replacement schedule due to increases in costs. The Town may need to seek another avenue to order to make purchases in the future.

Mr. Fifield moved the section total at \$224,649. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.

**East Wakefield Fire – Chief Todd Nason**

Chief Nason has removed the cost of the telephone as it is covered under the Highway repeater. The increase in this request relates to electricity and heating fuel. Mr. Fifield moved the section total at \$8203. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.

**Union Fire – Chief Todd Nason**

Mr. Fifield moved the section total at \$9948. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.

**Forest Fires – Chief Todd Nason**

Mr. Fifield moved the section total at \$2000. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.

The bay floors on the fire side need to be addressed, funds for which should be considered in the PSB budget.

Mr. Fifield moved to adjourn at 6:43 p.m. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.

Respectfully submitted,  
Toni Bodah, Secretary

Approval of Minutes:



Richard C. Edwards, Chair

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Mark P. Duffy



Kenneth G. Fifield