

Budget Committee tour of the Police, EMS, Fire Station and Airport on February 2nd, 2012

Members present:

Chair, Constance Schumann, Robert Blagden, Bill Barnes, Richard Hanson, Joe Piccirillo, Ray Soule, and Cliff Hendricks. Others present: Town Manager, Laurie Smith.

Budget Committee members meet at the town offices at 8 A.M. on 2 February for an informational tour of the Police, EMS, Fire Station and Airport departments. The tour started with the Police Department, then the EMS and Fire Departments, and finally the Airport Department.

Police Department: Meet with Police Chief Troy Cline who presented a brief overview of the police department services and need(s). Members were provided with a handout, outlining what he saw as the negatives, positives and priorities for the police department.

EMS Department: Meet with EMS Director Roland Abbott. He discussed what he saw as the immediate needs of the EMS department (replace chassis for 2006 ambulance and new heart monitors) and what he saw as areas that would improve the EMS department. Office space is one area where he sees a growing need.

Fire Department: Meet with Fire Chief Rob Bickford. He informed the committee that the department was able to meet its commitments and that the trucks were currently meeting their yearly inspections, the oldest of which is a 1989 Thibeault 75' aerial ladder. His near term plan is to start replacing the older AirPacks with new ones. At a cost of several hundred dollars each, he indicated that replacing a few each year would be preferable to replacing all or most of them all at once, avoiding large swings in the Fire Department budget.

Wiscasset Airport: The committee meet with the Wiscasset Airport Manager Ervin Deck. He provided the committee members with a bus tour of the airport and its related buildings and services. He informed us that the runway will undergo a \$1 million restoration next year, fixing many cracks, (both large and small) that have formed over the past several years. Replacement of electrical wiring and runway / taxiway lighting will also happen at that time. This will bring the Wiscasset Airport up to modern level of service. He told the committee that the volunteers put in a lot of time at the airport doing various projects, and without their help the airport would be at a great loss. He informed us that the Texas Commemorative Air Force will be returning this year, and that he and the other members look forward to working with them.

With the conclusion of the airport tour, Budget committee members adjourned.

Respectfully submitted: Clifford Hendricks