

Draft

October 14th, 2025

Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

Attendee:

Steven Crane

Kevin Cassidy

Fred Platts

Doug Benton (Vice Chair)

Brian Lewis

Danielle Reed (Chair)

Mike Provost

Department Heads:

George Clayman, Fire Chief

Dave Suckling, Police Chief

Non-Profit Organizations:

Heather, Voices Against Violence

Public:

Don Paiva

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by Danielle Reed.

Doug made motion to appoint Mike to Budget Committee to file the last vacancy for the remainder of the year. Second by Brian. The motion was voted on and unanimously passed.

Heather from Voices Against Violence spoke about the organization's request of \$3,832.00. Heather answered questions from the committee in regards to getting funding from the state and federal government. Heather explained that there is some funding from the state as the state receives funds from the federal government for organizations like Voices Against Violence.

Heather was asked if the request/receive money from the County. Heather was unable to answer the question but is going to forward that information.

The Budget Committee reviewed the Fire Departments budget request. Chief Clayman had advised that Engine 2 had failed its pump test. He states it will cost \$25,000.00 to re build the pump. This was also the same pump that has been rebuilt before. Chief Clayman advised that they have done more training on pumping to ensure that it is not user error causing the problem. He also advised that the pump is out of its warranty window. Chief Clayman and the Budget Committee discussed if this expense should be put in a warrant article or use funds from the Fire Department Expandable Trust Fund. Chief Clayman also advised that Engine 2 will be retested this year.

It was noted that there is a line item for Personnel Stipends of \$15,600.00. Budget Committee asked about this new line item. Chief Clayman advised that he has implemented a new on call schedule. He advised that to ensure calls are being covered that they have implemented weekly on call shifts that members are expected to respond to calls when available (for example when they are not at work). He states that he has spoken with area departments that is similar to ours and that everyone else is at least given the members some type of monetary compensation.

While he knows this is not much but each person get \$100 per week for being on call.

It was noted that the New Equipment - Communication line is over budget for this year. The budget for this line item was \$10,000.00 but has spent \$16,862.00 as of September 4th, 2025. The 2026 request is \$13,000.00. It was asked if this is enough. Chief Clayman advised that the Association is supplementing the rest. He also advised that the Association purchased the new generator for the Fire Department.

Budget Committee asked about the Dry Hydrant Installation line. Chief Clayman advised that it is there for if they have a resident that has a water source that can be accessed for the Fire Department to use in case of an emergency.

It was noted that in 2023 to current that the FD Secretary line has not been used completely. It was asked if that line needs to be adjusted the amount allocated to the line. Chief Clayman advised that there is plenty of work and has addressed the this need.

Budget Committee reviewed the Emergency Management Budget. Chief Clayman advised that there is a change to how we get reimbursed for expenses. He explains that we now have to pay out of pocket then we can file to get reimbursed. George Tuthill had asked if drafting the Hazard Mitigation Plan update has led to any discussion about the amount that's proposed to be added to the Expandable Trust Fund (this is a warrant article). Chief Clayman states that there are grants available and at this time does not believe we need to add more to the proposed amount.

Budget Committee reviewed the Police Department Budget. George Tuthill asked about the overtime budget line and its increase. Chief Suckling stated that there is no increase in the line. In the 2025 budget there is \$4,000.00 and in the 2026 budget request is \$4,000.00. \$2,270.00 has been spent in overtime as of August 19th, 2025 George Tuthill wanted clarification on the uniforms and equipment purchases. Uniforms for 2025 budget is \$2,500.00 and the 2026 request is \$5,000.00. \$2,615.00 has been spent as of August 19th, 2025. Equipment purchases 2025 budget is \$7,000.00 and the 2026 budget request is \$10,000.00. As of August 19th, 2025 there has been no money spent from this line. Chief Suckling states that Josh needs a new vest. Budget Committee asked why as he has only been here for a year, and didn't he get a new vest when he started. Chief Suckling states that he had a used vest for the academy. Chief Suckling also stated that they need new plate for their tactical vest as they are only good for so many years. As for the equipment purchases, they want to purchase new software for dictation to expedite their reports.

Chief Suckling is requesting a pay increase and more hours for the Admin assistant as there is currently not enough hours available for her to do her job. This will stay part-time.

Chief Suckling is requesting to get a new cruiser to replace the pickup for another Tahoe. Chief Suckling would like to replace the cruisers every 6 years. The new Tahoe is quotes at \$80,000.00 and we could potentially trade the pickup for \$10,000.00 this would be a lease. It

was questioned if this should be a warrant article or stay as a line item. Chief Suckling fears that if we do it as a warrent article it risk having run down equipment if it doesn't get approved.

Committee likes the ideal of it as a line item as you can see the total cost of the department.

Don asked Chief Suckling about if there is any talk or thoughts on merging with Danbury PD.

Chief Suckling states that he is not aware of any and advised that he advised Danbury that they will not be going to Danbury for calls as it is no longer mutual aid and not fair to our town.

Brian made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Steven. All in favor. The Health Office budget had been moved to the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm