

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 29, 2018

Mayor Casavant called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Committee Members present: Michael Swanton, John McCurry, Jr., Stephen St. Cyr, Robert Quattrone, Jr., Victoria Foley, Norman Belanger, Michael Ready, Marc Lessard

Laura Seaver was excused.

The Committee, and all who were present, recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Manager, Jim Bennett reviewed the explanations and updates that were provided to the questions that had been brought up at the March 26th Budget Committee meeting. (see handout)

As a follow up to the PILOT program with UNE, the Committee asked for further information on how many dorms UNE has in Portland, as well as how many false alarm fire calls they receive, as compared to the Biddeford UNE campus.

City Government Budget – Part II

The Budget Committee heard a presentation by Fire Chief, Scott Gagne on Fire Department and EMS response time information and some of the challenges currently facing the Fire Department with the current staffing levels. Chief Gagne identified three major areas of concern:

1) Challenge with response times

- Committee asked for a revised map showing response times for emergency calls only

2) Increase in call volume

The Committee asked for the following:

- percentage of calls that come in between 7pm and midnight
- percentage of fire calls during the 7pm to 7am time frame
- how much down time there actually is during the nighttime hours

3) Volume of medical calls (as opposed to fire calls)

The Budget Committee is being asked to consider funding 8(eight) additional Firefighter positions, which would potentially add two additional staff members to each Shift. Chief Gagne explained that with the additional positions, the department would be able to better maintain appropriate staffing levels for the call volume and medical emergencies that have been consistently increasing each year.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.