

**Town of Sturbridge
Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2009
Sturbridge Senior Center
7:00 P.M.**

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm with the following members present: Kevin Smith (KS), Larry Morrison (LM), Mike Serio (MS), Mary Redetzke (MR), Mary Dowling (MD), Bob Williams (BW), Virginia Stallone (VS) and Patricia Affenito (PA).

Discussion of Police Department budget: Police Chief Tom Ford attending.

- Radio upgrade improved town communications tremendously but school issue has not been addressed. The study done did not include the school.
- There is communications capability within Burgess but not at TRSD.
- Estimated at \$40k to fix the TRSD communications problem. Priscilla Gimas is addressing this with Dan Durgin.
- There is only one way communications between radio-> repeater -> dispatcher.
- There are only land line communications and direct radio communications at the school.
- There are no phones in the school rooms; therefore, no communications between rooms and the office- estimated at \$18k to put phones in the rooms.
- There are currently very few cameras in the TRSD parking lot.
- There was a grant for the School Resource Officer at TRSD; however, this ended in 2005 and has not been funded since.
- They receive about 10 calls/month during the school year from the school for investigations.
- There are 3 officers trained in gang/bullying action
- Chief Ford applies for many grants
- Requests 4 new officers: replacement of Lt promotion slot, replacement of Detective promotion slot, new school resource officer and new officer.
- FinCom requests justification and associated costs: one-time and ongoing

Police budget held for vote until updated numbers come from Jim Malloy.

Safety Complex

Motion to approve Budget line #11972-52000 through 11972-54000: Safety Complex, as written at \$111,524, made by PA, seconded by LM, so moved 7-0-0.

Fire Department

Needs a grant writer; they are missing many opportunities

Chief Senecal believes that the current cuts will affect service. Need to follow up.

Jim Malloy has asked the Chief to review the scheduling of staff during the week.

Hold on voting budget until updated numbers come in from Jim Malloy.

Note: There is a new Technology Committee in Sturbridge
3/5 meeting at Burgess

3/11 meeting at TRSD Junior High

Meeting adjourned at 10:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Affenito