

Public Safety Subcommittee  
Advisory Committee  
Public Hearing

The Public Safety Subcommittee of the Advisory Committee held a public hearing on July 9, 2019 at 6:00 pm in Room 103.

In attendance were: Chief John Sullivan (Fire Department), Chief Andy Lipson (Police Department), Kevin Mascoll (Public Safety Business Office), Justin Casanova-Davis (Assistant Town Administrator), Mark Gray (TMM P7), Cliff Brown (AC), Harry Friedman (AC) and Subcommittee members Alisa Jonas, David-Marc Goldstein, Susan Granoff and Janice Kahn (Chair).

**BACKGROUND:**

The conditions of appropriation require that the Advisory Committee approve requests to move money out of the Capital Outlay or into Personnel. Both the Fire Department and the Police Department requested fund transfers that require Advisory Committee approval. With the end of FY19 there are a number of fund transfers that are needed to close out the year.

**DISCUSSION:**

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:** The Police Department is requesting the transfer of \$13,250 from unexpended Capital monies to cover the following costs:

1. \$12,000 for Electricity
2. \$250 for Professional/Technical
3. \$1,000 for Wireless Communications

It was noted that Electricity, which is consumption-driven, was underfunded this year and that line has been increased for FY20.

The Public Safety Subcommittee voted 4-0-0 to recommend these appropriation transfers.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

The Fire Department is seeking a Reserve Fund Transfer in the amount of \$240,322.

The total FY19 deficit is \$327,865. With the posting of the final payroll for FY19 the following transfers are being requested:

1. Of this amount, a reserve fund transfer of \$203,688 is being requested to cover back pay associated with the reinstatement of Firefighter Gerald Alston onto the payroll in

compliance with the recent Civil Service ruling. This covers the time period from the termination of Firefighter Alston's employment in 2016 through the end of FY19.

2. \$56,181 is proposed to be covered by appropriation transfers from Services, Supplies and other Charges to Permanent Full Time Salaries
3. \$31,362 is proposed to be covered by transferring unexpended funds from Capital to Permanent Full Time Salaries.

Items #2 and #3, a total of \$87,543, are transfer requests from non-personnel accounts to cover the needed personnel costs. The purchase of public safety equipment budgeted in FY19 was deferred to FY20, leaving funds available for the transfer.

The public hearing discussion focused on the reasons for the high personnel costs. During the majority of the fiscal year there were 12 vacancies, resulting in an increase in overtime expenses. A new recruit class just finished training the end of June filling 11 of those vacancies. Normally, the salaries from personnel vacancies can offset much of the overtime costs. However, recruits are paid during training, even though they are not yet line firefighters. Additionally, the Civil Service ruling was not anticipated when the FY19 budget was finalized. Firefighter Alston remains on the payroll while he is on administrative leave.

By a vote of 4-0-0 the Public Safety Subcommittee recommends favorable action on these fund transfers.