

BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

NEWBERG, OREGON

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Members Present:

|                    |              |               |
|--------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Darlyn Adams       | Bob Andrews  | Mike Boyes    |
| Roger Currier      | Sally Dallas | Mike McBride  |
| Donna McCain       | Louis Larson | Robert Larson |
| Douglas Pugsley    | Bart Rierson | Robert Soppe  |
| Bob Stewart, Mayor | Lon Wall     |               |

**Absent:** None

Others Present:

|                                         |                                  |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Jim Bennett, City Manager               | Kathy Tri, City Finance Director |
| Michael Sherman, Fire Chief             | Leah Griffith, Librarian         |
| Dave Brooks, IT Director                | Brian Casey, Deputy Police Chief |
| Janelle Nordyke, Ass't Finance Director | Frank Douglas, EMS Supervisor    |
| Al Blodgett, Fire Division Chief        | Robert Tardiff, Police Chief     |
| Frank Douglas, DC/EMS Coord.            |                                  |

**Absent:** Terry Mahr, City Attorney and Mike Soderquist, Community Development.

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1. **Call to Order**

**Chair Sally Dallas** called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. **Roll Call**

Roll call was noted by Kathy Tri.  
Donna McCain was in attendance at 7:35 p.m.

3. **Continued Business**

**Library Budget:**

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| <b>Motion:</b> <b><u>Bob Larson/Bart Rierson</u></b> to increase the Library book budget by \$10,000. |
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Robert Soppe suggested waiting until the total budget was reviewed. Jim Bennett stated now was the time to decide if the committee wanted to vote by fund, department or as a

Bennett said yes if two-thirds (2/3) of the committee agreed. Robert Soppe said that he was not ready to approve anything until the end.

**Motion:** It was moved and seconded to table the motion. Approved unanimously.  
Motion carried.

Lou Larson asked why the line “ Books & Publications” did not agree with the amount on page 149. Kathy Tri explained that the number on page 317 was a composite of the General Fund (01) & and the Library Gift Fund (22).

Lou Larson verified with Kathy Tri that the Vehicle/Equipment Fund included equipment for vehicles and computers. Looking at page 147, Bart Rierison asked how the department generated resources. Staff explained that the number included the Gift Fund and can fluctuate annually.

Mike McBride asked about the book budget and suggested increasing it \$10,000 from the General Fund Contingency, which has \$380,000.00. After much discussion the following motion was entered.

**Motion:** Bart Rierison moved to increase the book budget by \$10,000. The motion was voted down.

Kathy Tri agreed with Robert Soppe’s request to do a prior years’ comparison, splitting out Fund 01 from Fund 22’s revenues. This will be brought back to the next meeting where it will be voted on again.

### **Fire Department:**

Michael Sherman, Fire Chief, presented the Fire Department Budget, highlighting the changes: EMS Budget, Staffing Changes, Capital Replacement, FEMA grant and water tender purchase.

**EMS:** The Medicare fee schedule was implemented in 2002. Since then there has been a 20% decrease in revenues every year. The volume has skyrocketed with 55% of transports being billed as Medicare. Collection rates for Medicare amounts have also dropped significantly each year. The proposal is to move the .5 FTE back to the General Fund, from where it originally came from. Capital Replacement is being non-funded in order to get EMS back on its feet. Springfield bills and collections for the city and we have one of the best collection rates. Although the ambulance fund is supposed to be self-funding, Medicare reimbursements are being decreased, and the City isn’t allowed to bill the individual or supplemental insurance companies for the difference.

Discussion began regarding Station 21 and how it is manned. There is a SAFER grant in the works that would allow the City to hire 2 full-time firefighters. For the first year, the grant will cover 90% of the cost of the 2 firefighters with a grant spans for 3.5 years,

which will end up costing the City \$100,000. The grant requires the City to keep the 2 firefighters for at least one additional year. It will take approximately \$80,000 to employ each firefighter during the 5<sup>th</sup> year. Chief Sherman stated he was not in favor of this grant, however, he felt it was his duty to inform us.

It was asked if the City decided to participate in the SAFER program, how would the City fund the 5 years? Try to get a levy passed? Chief Sherman stated it is very difficult to ask someone to fund a fluctuating amount. It is better to go to the voters and ask to open up Station 21. Kathy Tri says the levy can only go for 5 years.

If we opened the Springbrook Station, how many people would it take to man it? Chief Sherman said it would take a total of six (6), however, we are a long ways from getting to that point. Bob Stewart said that Forest Grove, McMinnville and Monmouth have agreements with college students to man the fire stations. Speculation says it would require the dedication of one fulltime staff member to supervise this program for the City to adopt it. Although Station 21 is not open full time, it is being used a lot. Training programs are frequently being held there.

Chief Sherman stated Newberg should have 22 more firefighters than we currently have, however compared to other jurisdictions we are down by 9 firefighters.

Roger Currier said that we all agree that we need more fire protection. The police runs with 1-2 cars a night. We also need to consider police. Kathy Tri commented that if a house were built today, we would get the full value in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year. The taxable amount comes in about 79% of market value.

## 5. Adjourn

**Motion:** Pugsley/Adams moved to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. Approved unanimous. Motion carried.

**ADOPTED** by the Budget Committee this 3 day of May 2005.



Secretary

**Next Meeting – Tuesday, May 11, 2004**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Public Safety Building**

**Agenda: Information Technology and Police**