

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
BUDGET MEETING
February 17, 2016
Meeting Room A**

<u>Present:</u>	Norman Needleman	Audience Members
	Stacia Libby	James Francis
	Bruce Glowac	Maria Lucarelli
	Kelly Sterner	

Norman Needleman called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm

Public Comment: None

BUDGET REVIEWS:

Visiting Nurses (VNA) – Tab 42 – Page 47

Executive Director Susan Maxwell presented. The VNA is requesting \$66,874, which is the same as last year. There was discussion on value based purchasing. Ms. Maxwell stated their patients are primarily Essex residents. Mr. Needleman inquired about VNA's viability. Ms. Maxwell reported that VNA is expanding into other neighboring Towns to become more viable. VNA offers a continuum of care. Mr. Glowac stated this is a great service.

Ivoryton Library – Tab 48 – Page 54

Director Elizabeth Alvord presented. Ms. Alvord reported that 74% of the library's budget comes from the Town of Essex and the rest of the funding comes from membership, language classes, the children's room, and fundraisers. The Selectmen stated the Ivoryton Library does a terrific job.

Tri Town Youth Services – Tab 41, Page 46

Director Gail Beck presented. Mr. Needleman inquired and what types and who from Essex receives services from Tri-Town. Ms. Beck reported that she did not have specific numbers of Essex residents that have received services because most services are events and not trackable. Ms. Beck stated that the Youth and Family Services Bureau is a service for all three towns and apart from the events that are sponsored, there is some one-on-one, couples, and family counseling. Ms. Beck stated that all financial needs for Essex residents must go through the Town of Essex, not Tri Town.

Fire Department – Tab 32, Page 35

Chief Paul Fazzino, Jr. presented the Essex Fire Department Budget. Chief Fazzino reported the Fire Department has always strived to keep the budget request flat, but this year they did have some increases. Some of the increases are due to the cost of medical supplies and an increase in training costs. Firefighters are getting trained to administer Narcan (naloxone) and the certificate lasts for two years. Fire training for a new member is approximately \$1,000 per firefighter. The CPR machines were purchased with donations and require annual maintenance which is costly. The Fire Department Instructor

Conference and Seminar is one of the best trainings, but is located annually in Minneapolis. The Department sends out a core group of firefighters to be trained and they come back and train the other members. The Fire Chief would like to continue this annual training and would like to include this line item in the budget.

Chief Fazzino reported on the Capital Budget Expenditures. The department would like to replace the Zodiac boat because it is more than 20 years old and is a safety concern. It is 14' and has a 9 horsepower engine which would be upgraded to a 25 horsepower engine.

Chief Fazzino reported that there is a need for a security system at the fire stations in both Essex and Ivoryton, especially since there was a break in in Killingworth recently.

The Selectmen suggested possibly using the Sinking Fund for other things besides just for an apparatus and suggested planning out a budget for long term expenses.

Social Services Tab B41, Page B55

Mary Ellen Barnes presented the Social Services budget. Estuary Council of Seniors is being utilized by Essex. Community Health Services works with people on a sliding scale.

Ms. Barnes reported that the Town of Essex is a very generous Town. Essex Steam Train recently donated funding to Social Services to cover emergencies and other services. Ms. Barnes has direct contacts with the oil and electric companies to help residents in need. The donation fund helps those who run out of oil or electricity.

Other donations come from Payless Shoes, the Salvation Army, and the Old Saybrook Rotary Club. Operation Fuel has a program. There are also several other programs that are managed through Social Services.

Metrics

Finance Director Kelly Sterner presented on a new section of the budget called Metrics.

Paramedic Program

Mr. Needleman reported on the paramedic program which has now been added to the Ambulance Association budget page.

ADJOURNMENT at 6:44 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Lucarelli