





**ITEM 3: To Review Alternate Scenarios for the Proposed 2016 Fire Rescue Department Budget (Cont.)**

of the Town having to provide health insurance to those per diem employees who consistently work more than thirty (30) hours per week as a result of the staff retention problems; public safety issues; affordability (or not) of the tax increase that would come from this increased budget, now and for future years; federal and state fire service mandates; the possibility of having to deal with another bargaining unit if full-time fire fighters are hired; census of the Town during the work day/work week; and the possibility, if full-time fire fighters are hired, of the Fire Rescue staff taking over some of the maintenance duties of the Municipal Building in an effort to cut back on that department's Wages line item. Chief Bell encouraged anyone with questions to come talk with him so that he can hopefully give them a better understanding of the situation.

**Michael Fogg moved to recommend the Fire Rescue Department's proposal of hiring four (4) full-time firefighters at a cost of \$440,675; no second.**

Stephan Bunker explained that, as a member of the Fire Rescue Department and the Board of Selectmen, he is obliged to abstain from this type of vote. The consensus of the remaining two Selectmen was that they were not comfortable voting at this time, and felt that Andrew Buckland and the Budget Committee should have the opportunity to review the options before a vote is made.

**MOTION FAILED**

Richard Davis verified with Budget Committee Chairman Clyde Ross that the Budget Committee would like to hear a review at their meeting the next night with Chief Bell present to answer any questions that arise. Stephan Bunker, speaking as a member of a State Commission that studies fire protection services in Maine, reviewed actions being taken to find recruitment and retention incentives to introduce new fire fighters to the program. He asked for further consideration of the charging of some cost of the department's response to motor vehicle accidents through the motorist's insurance protection, using the revenue to replenish the Equipment Reserve account. It was also his recommendation that a study be conducted by a consulting service to look objectively at levels of fire service, staffing and funding, including the legality of the formation of fire districts. Selectmen thanked Chief Bell for his work in compiling the proposed scenarios.





**ITEM 10: To Discuss Other Business (Cont.)**

- B)** Stephan Bunker acknowledged that the Town Manager's earlier quote of the Statute regarding Fire Districts that he questioned was indeed correct.
- C)** Joshua Bell reminded the Selectmen that they need to review and sign the Disbursement Warrant.

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Stephan Bunker moved to adjourn at 8:45 P.M.; Matthew Smith seconded.**

**VOTE            AFFIRMATIVE    4            ABSENT    1            MOTION CARRIED**  
**(Andrew Buckland)**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda H. Grant.

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Andrew R. Buckland - Secretary