

Answer to Question #2: Mark Mcdermott, Kip Mesirow, Meg Modley, Jon Davis all voiced support for these changes, no one voiced opposition. Consensus indicated support for the two changes.

Question #3 by John Snow: Chris Davis had suggested looking into various demonstrations of what level funding budget cuts would mean to the operations of CVFRS.

Discussion followed that the purpose of such an illustration would make it clear that we could not cut \$50K from our budget without a serious impact on our current level of services. It was noted that even the process of analyzing this would send a chilling message to some of our staff who might view this as an indication that their positions were not secure. It was generally agreed that we need a better basis for understanding the service levels actually wanted by the overall townspeople of Charlotte. In the process of discussion it was also noted that the use of Special Funds for "enhanced" items is confusing and falsely suggests that these are not necessary items for our services. The role of the reserve created by budget "surplus" was also discussed and it was noted that this reserve is for "operating deficits" and that some or all of this reserve may in fact be needed in the current fiscal year.

Answer to Question #3

John Snow noted without objection that there appeared to be a consensus at this point that we will not present what a \$50,000 cut would do as far as services. He noted, however, that this type of analysis may be needed in the future.

Question #4 : Separate Line Item Question

John Snow: Do we want or need the CVFRS budget to be a separate line item at Town Meeting? It would need to be petitioned or have the Selectboard remove us from the general budget and place us on a separate line.

If the Selectboard will not put our full FY2016 Budget in front of the taxpayers, do we want to petition to be a separate line item?

Discussion followed regarding the mechanics of creating a separate article at Town Meeting. Pros and cons of this were discussed. Overall it was the sentiment of the board that we would prefer to have our budget proposal put before the voters.

Mark McDermott leaves at 5:10 PM

Answer to Question #4

If the Selectboard cuts the proposed FY 2016 Budget, we would ask for a separate line item with the proposed FY2016 Budget (with no cuts). If this is not accepted by the Selectboard, we would petition to be a separate line item. (It was discussed and thought that 5% of the voters were needed on a petition, which would be estimated

as 200 signatures). All present were in agreement, with no further comments or discussion.

A brief informal discussion then followed about the role of the incentive program with no proposals made or conclusions reached.

John Snow mentioned that there is a Selectboard Meeting to discuss the FY2016 Budget on Thursday , January 15 at 10 AM.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:28 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Jon Davis, VP