

Minutes
of the
Plainfield Finance Committee
Wednesday, February 20, 2019, 7 p.m.
in Town Hall

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Present were members Robert Persing, Roberta Wooldridge, Robert Baker, Lew Robbins, Tim Walter, and David Kramer. Also present were the three regular members of Plainfield's Police Department—Chief Justin Litchfield, Sergeant Matthew Miazga, and Officer Danielle Wright—who were invited to discuss their FY 2020 budget proposal.

The minutes of the meeting of January 16, 2019, were approved as written.

In its FY 2020 budget, the Police Department is asking for an increase in authorized salaried hours, from 17 to 27 for calls, from 16 to 20 for patrols, and from 25 to 40 for administrative work, based on their experience over the past year. The administrative budget includes a new item of \$12K for gasoline, and an additional \$9K for weapons, which might better be listed as a capital expense. The bottom line is an increase of \$14K in the permanent administrative budget and \$25K in the salary budget. These increases will be offset somewhat from a taxation point of view by estimated revenue to the town of \$20K from citations and third-party police details.

The committee was also informed that police officers have been paying some Police Department expenses out of pocket. The committee asked for an accounting of such expenses.

Merton Taylor, Jr., appeared before the committee on behalf of the Highway Department. He stated that his budget is just adequate for his requirements, although he had to shortchange his maintenance and general highway budgets to meet the needs for winter roads. The committee considered increasing the winter roads budget line, but then decided against it because of the anticipated pressure on the taxation levy this year from other quarters. The committee encouraged Mert, however, to spend what was needed and ask for more funds as required.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Submitted by David Kramer, chair and secretary