

TOWN OF BERLIN
SPECIAL BOARD OF FINANCE MEETING
October 22, 2020
Conference Call: (701) 802-5116 (Access Code: 6347691#)
12:00 P.M.

- A. CALL TO ORDER
- B. ROLL CALL
- C. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- D. MOVE TO APPROPRIATE \$252,992 OF GENERAL FUND UASSIGNED FUND BALANCE TO THE BODY CAMERAS ACCOUNT WITHIN THE GENERAL FUND TO FUND THE PURCHASE OF BODY CAMERAS AND IN-CAR CAMERAS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RECENTLY SIGNED POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY LAW.
- E. ADJOURNMENT

Agenda Item No. D
Request for Board of Finance Action

TO: The Board of Finance

FROM: Arosha Jayawickrema, Town Manager

DATE: October 7, 2020

SUBJECT: Body-Worn Recording Equipment (BWRE) Reimbursement Grant Program

Summary of Agenda Item:

HB 6004 An Act Concerning Police Accountability was signed into law on July 31, 2020. It expands the requirement to use body cameras to police officers in all state, municipal, & tribal law enforcement units and requires these officers to use dashboard cameras in police patrol vehicles effective 7/1/2022. OPM will provide grants to reimburse municipalities 30-50% of the cost, however the details of the grants have not been released or made available yet. Preliminary queries with OPM staff concerning the grant revealed that the Town of Berlin would not be considered a distressed municipality and therefore would only be eligible for 30% reimbursement once the grant is made available.

OPM has an existing Body-Worn Recording Equipment (BWRE) Reimbursement Grant Program that provides 50% reimbursement. There is limited funding still available and it will be disbursed on a first come first serve basis. The grant requires municipalities to pay for the equipment up front and request reimbursement afterwards.

The police department researched integrated body worn and in-car camera systems manufactured by our current vendor WatchGuard/Motorola Solutions and Axon Enterprises Inc. WatchGuard provided a quote for \$252,992 and Axon provided a quote for \$430,540. The police department would like to apply for the existing OPM Body-Worn Recording Equipment (BWRE) Reimbursement Grant and purchase the body worn and in-car camera system from our current vendor WatchGuard/Motorola Solutions.

Since the Police Accountability law was passed after the Town's FY21 General Fund budget was adopted, funding for body worn cameras was not included in the budget. Further, the FY21 General Fund budget does not include any capital, so transferring from another capital account is not an option. The Town has a solid Unassigned Fund Balance in the General Fund; therefore, this request is to appropriate a small amount of the Unassigned Fund Balance to cover the cost of body cameras and in-car cameras to comply with the Police Accountability law.

The Town Charter requires a public hearing for any non-budgeted appropriation over \$25,000. However, the Governor's Executive Order 7S, amended by 7CC, eliminated the public hearing requirement during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Governor recently extended his executive orders until February 2021.

Action Needed:

Move to appropriate \$252,992 of General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance to the body cameras account within the General Fund to fund the purchase of body cameras and in-car cameras in accordance with the recently signed Police Accountability law.

Attachments:

None

Prepared By:

Deputy Chief Chris Ciuci