Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

DATE: January 8, 2015

Attendees: Roy Lainson-Chairman

 Howard Whyte-Secretary

 Bill Darnley - Member

Start Time: 7:02 PM

A motion to accept the minutes from the last meeting, held in November, was made by Bill and seconded by Howard. The motion passed.

Discussions began on the received budget requests for the next fiscal year. Heather Ackermann, Director of the Senior Center personally presented her department budget. There was a request for an increase in the cook’s salary, based on the hours worked and the new minimum wage that will go into effect this year. There was also discussion around the various grants being applied for and the deadlines for those applications. It was noted that there was no accounting for the annual software licensing fee which is estimated to be about $600. Heather will report the exact amount to the Finance Committee as soon as possible so it can be included in the budget request.

Provided the budget allows, the Finance Committee decided to provide funding of the cook position up to $6,000, which has been our long-standing agreement if the necessary grants are not received. Heather agreed to pursue grants to cover the gap between the $6,000 and the $8,892 being requested. If not successful, FinCom recommended that Heather make a Reserve Request prior to June 30, 2016 if funding runs low.

The Board of Health is requesting an increase of $85 to cover the cost of a requested stipend increase. It was noted that the Board of Selectmen determine stipend expenditures.

Animal Control listed several increases in their budget request including an increase in salary, stipend and fees. It was questioned as to why the Animal Control Officer is the recipient of three different income streams, and that perhaps they should be consolidated into one item. It will be reviewed at a later time.

The Library budget requested a slight increase in employee costs as a result of the new minimum wage rate, but other than that, it was level funded.

The Tax Collector is requesting an increase in salary for both the Collector and the Clerk.

All salary requests outside of the required minimum wage increase, will be dealt with in separate discussion later in the budget process.

Next meeting: February 12, 2015 at 7:00 PM

Motion to adjourn was made by Howard, seconded by Roy.

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 PM