Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

DATE: February 12, 2015

Attendees: Roy Lainson-Chairman

 Valerie Bernier-Member

 Howard Whyte-Secretary

 Bill Darnley - Member

Start Time: 7:00 PM

Motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting was made by Roy, seconded by Howard. The motion passed.

Chief Hastings was present to discuss the upcoming Police Department budget. Specifically discussed were those line item requests that increased from last year. Discussions centered on mandated training, increase in patrol hours and firearms acquisition. It was suggested that firearms acquisition be funded through Norcross rather than make it a one-time budget line item. We also discussed increasing training over 2 years at $2,000 in FY16 and again in FY17 so as not to increase the budget with such a large number all in one year. As discussed, all training will continue to be fully up up date, however less spending will be used training out of the Salaries line item going forward.

Ed Boyce – representing the School Board- was present to discuss the Wales Elementary School Budget. The budget presented totaled $1,636,673.00 but did not include any School Choice. Ed explained that their intent was to use School Choice funds for roof repairs this year. The budget presented indicates an increase of 3.28% over last year.

Justin Mathiau from the Planning Board requested the Committee’s time to inquire about general budget procedures, how line items work and the possibility of establishing a revolving account for legal expenses, expert consultations, etc. as needed. Specifically, he was looking for a way where monies not spent from one line item could be rolled over into another line item or some type of savings account/discretionary fund. He was also asking for approximately $600 be entered as a new line item for legal fees, consultations, etc. The Committee directed him to both the town Treasurer and Accountant for Planning Board account information.

Highway Dept.- the budget request for this department was discussed, specifically those items that increased from last year such as fuel/oil, payroll, equipment maintenance. It was noted by the Committee that the Highway Commissioner had been requested last year to install a fuel monitoring system to track fuel usage. To the Committee’s knowledge such a system has yet to be installed. Determining accurate fuel usage and by what department would help considerably with fuel/oil budgeting. The Chairman took that as an action item to speak with the Commissioner about this system. The Chairman is also going to look into previous salt/sand deficits. The Committee agreed to continue to fund a seasonal employee and not a third full time employee and to fund a part time clerk.

The Senior Center reported back to the Committee that the cost of software licensing would be $600 as estimated, and that the actual costs for an elevator inspection and state recertification would be $1020. T

Animal Control Officer (ACO)- There was discussion last meeting concerning ways to provide phone services for the ACO since she works for 4 towns simultaneously. It was suggested that perhaps Wales could share the costs of one phone line with all the town involved. Roy will broach the subject with the Board of Selectmen and report back.

Assessors – it was reported that there will be an increase in costs for the next Cyclical Review. However, the costs can be spread out over two years.

The 5 Main Street committee had requested input from each of the town committees regarding the disposition/use of the 5 Main Street property. There was some good conversation on this topic and Roy will draft a response from the Committee on the member’s thoughts and ideas.

The Reserve Fund remains at $31,748.70.

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

Motion to adjourn was made by Roy, seconded by Howard and passed with no opposition.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM