Wales Finance Committee Meeting Minutes – August 13, 2015

Present: Roy Lainson, Valerie Bernier, Bill Darnley

The meeting came to order at 7:03 PM

New Business:

The minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted.

A motion was made by Roy to pay the annual Association of Finance Committee Dues for this fiscal year. Bill seconded, all were in favor.

Leis Phinney attended and gave us information regarding a new election machine that is discounted until September 30th. Although she wasn’t planning to replace the machine yet, our current machine is in perfect condition and maintenance is guaranteed for five more years, she feels this new machine is a opportunity we may not want to pass up. The new machine comes with all the memory cards and a two year warrantee on parts and maintenance with ½ off on the first programming. Two hours of training is also included. The new machine does not cost any more to run and it has a screen that shows if the ballot is accepted and read, and makes a digital record of the ballot. Leis felt she would eventually replace the current machine with this machine. The savings would be $600 off the price, $500 for the trade-in and about $400 on the programming. The original cost of the machine is $7,000.

The current machine has another year of maintenance paid for, so the question was whether we would lose this year by getting the new machine or not. Leis will find out how the timing would work. There is currently about $1,900 in Leis budget she might be able to use toward the machine. Her recommendation was to purchase this machine because she didn’t feel the opportunity would come again to get a discount.

There was some discussion, Valerie suggested we all take home the information and read it over and vote at the next meeting. There should be time for us to vote and have the Selectmen vote to adopt it before the sale ends. Leis mentioned the Selectmen could vote to adopt it prior to our decision. Then if the money was not approved, we just wouldn’t purchase it.

Ed Boyce mentioned that we may be forced to do the phone system this year, Roy noted that the phones were a capital request and did not have an effect on the reserve fund.

Roy asked if the voting laws change would the machine need to be changed or become obsolete. Leis said the Attorney General has to approve machine changes and it takes a long time so there wasn’t much chance of that happening.

All members received the conflict of interest memo to be filled out and signed.

Roy made a motion to close the meeting and Val seconded. All in favor. The meeting closed at 7:47PM.