**Town of Wales**

**Finance Committee Minutes**

Saturday, April 1, 2017 @ 11:00 AM

Town Hall, Selectmen’s office

In attendance: Roy Lianson, Valerie Bernier, Bill Darnley, Kimberly Jorge

**CALL TO ORDER at 11:18am**

**OLD BUSINESS**

Final review of FY18 Budget Proposal

General government: there has been a history of reserve requests for the central procurement line item of about $5,000 per year. Although the BOS did not request an increase, it may be prudent to increase this in the budget to avoid reserve requests. The is some concern voiced by Bill that money from these accounts have been misappropriated.

Roy made a motion to increase the central procurement line item from $24,500 to $29,500

Seconded by Val

Discussion: Bill made an amendment to reduce the increase to a total of $27,500. Amendment Roy to adjust the line item to $28,500.

In favor: All

The motion passed unanimously.

Selectman: the secretary line item request deceased from FY17. IT expense request was an increase of $6,175 per year. The rest of the BOS budget is level funded. All in favor of the IT increase. Roy reached out to Ed Boyce for clarification regarding the secretary salary, and he stated that the standard increase should be added on top of the figure provided in the budget request. This places this line item at $29,458.

Accountant: a line item will be added for the new accountant’s $1,000 stipend and a reserve request may be received this fiscal year to address the fact that the new accountant is certified.

Police department: the police department requested a salary increase above that of the general salary increase. A 3% salary increase for all employees is the target this fiscal year but this is subject to the constraints of the budget.

Senior center: the director was in attendance last meeting. The finance committee does not intend to increase the director’s hours, as this is out of our scope. She will receive the blanket increase. The senior center cook will receive $10,868 which amounts to a higher percentage increase but this is necessary to meet minimum wage requirements. Senior center expenses $1,000 increase was for an additional computer for the assistant/SHINE counselor. This employee is present two days per week. Seniors also come to the senior center requesting to use a computer. The general consensus is that $1,000 is more than the cost of a computer.

Val made a motion to approve $500 for a new senior center computer

Seconded by Bill

Discussion: $500 would not go toward a computer that is accessible to the seniors.

In favor: all

The motion passed unanimously.

The van driver line item will be included as a line item per request of the BOS. At town meeting, if a different decision is come to by the residents of Wales, Val states that lowering the local receipts would be ideal. The finance committee will recommend that the van driver be paid strictly for medical appointments. Roy will compose a letter to the BOS.

Unclassified: Lynn gave an estimate of $435,000 for medical/life/dental, and insurance and bonds requested amount was $98,500 rather than $97,500 however this did not include workers comp. the finance committee will recommend $110,000 because based on previous fiscal years, this appears to be in keeping with the average annual increase.

Roy made a motion to increase insurance and bonds to $110,000

Seconded by Val

In favor: all

Motion passed unanimously

Roy will calculate the final amount of the FY18 budget proposal. Based on the excess amount available, a 3% increase to wages may be possible.

Bill made a motion to approve a 3% wage increase.

Seconded by Roy

All in favor

Motion passed unanimously

Final review of warrant articles

A draft of the warrant was presented to the committee. It is missing the article regarding marijuana.

Article 10 will involve a new way that revolving accounts will be authorized starting FY19.

Article 14 will need to be updated with a final total sum of the budget.

Article 15 was submitted by a town citizen. The wording is unclear. The right of way is typically written into the deed and there is question as to whether this can be voted on.

An article to pay off the tanker is included as well.

The Finance Committee will lobby to move any financial articles to the beginning of the warrant.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Motion by Roy to adjourn at 12:52pm

Seconded by Kimberly

In favor: all

The motion passed unanimously

The meeting is adjourned at 12:52pm