



Town of Wales

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

10/9/19, @ 7:00 PM

Wales Town Hall

Members attending: Keith Davis(KD), Roy Lainson(RL), Jillian Mustion(JM)

Called to order at 7:08PM

Old Business

Review/approve prior meeting minutes: n/a

New Business

New Reserve requests - none

Review of articles for the upcoming town warrant discussed.

Article 3: Is still awaiting a final total. Should be about \$3,150. Bill from legal for bylaw update for planning committee. Bill came in after FY18 closed and a town vote of 9/10 is required to pay a previous year's bills in the current FY. If town votes the article down bill goes unpaid.

Article 8: Fire Dept sold equipment. Town must vote to transfer those funds from general fund to fire dept.

Article 5: New police chief's salary is above the original budget. Pam said the salary increase should be voted on since it is a reoccurring expense. Mike wants to use the reserve fund since it is above the amount in the budget this year and increase the budget item in following years.

Article 6: Is to cover the increase in benefits since the new police chief elected to accept benefits from the town of Wales. While the police chief is part time he has an employment contract which is equivalent to full time regardless of hours. Town of Wales benefits are very good, better than Sturbridge.

Article 7: Pam stated this is a one time upgrade fee for cost accountability software for police. Used to account for equipment and man hours. Jillian asked if this system could be utilized by the entire town but it is only for public safety. Subsequent years upkeep would cost \$190.

Article 9: Keith stated, per the capital improvement discussion, the payments on this truck would not start until FY21 and utilize a 3-5 year bond to be paid for. Discussion was had on the funding source, state house note versus stabilization fund. A state house note or bond was preferred since the selectman present indicated the town's capital improvement plan is in a cheap year with expensive years coming in the next 3-5 Fys. Jillian asked why funds for a brand new truck were being asked for when the town had so many capital improvements that were needed. Mike said funds were appropriated for new but used would be considered if one could be found.

Article 10: The selectman are asking for a bylaw change to add a town administrator. The intention is add these duties to and change the title of the BOS secretary. Roy asked if there would be a pay change since the BOS secretary already has an employment contract. Mike and Bill had a meeting scheduled the next morning to discuss this matter and others.

Article 11: Chief Croak has asked for this change to discourage the disruption caused by false alarms.

Articles 12-22: Changes to zoning bylaws suggested by legal to clear up issues with the solar vote taken a few years ago.

Planning board meeting is scheduled for October 21 about solar and the proposed storage facility.

Rod addressed the fact that the crumbling foundations is also affecting MA and Wales. There are two houses on Monson Road affected. People affected may look for tax abatements since the value of their homes will be drastically reduced.

Keith noted, as the new head of the finance committee, the minutes from the previous year are missing. The previous secretary took notes on her own device and did not turn in the minutes when she resigned her position. All committee members will collate any notes they have to create as accurate minutes as possible.

Receipts from the transfer station are lower than expected from recycling stickers, trash stickers, and bulk items. A new cashier has been hired. The receipts are being reviewed quarterly by the BOS.

The language of articles 3-9 should consider to be changed. BOS currently have articles say "raise & appropriate" which sounds like new taxes when the funds are actually being transferred from one fund to another.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28

Reserve balance before meeting: \$40,500

Reserve balance after meeting: \$40,500