



## **Town of Wales**

### **Finance Committee Meeting Minutes**

Thursday 2/13/20 @ 7:00 PM

Wales Town Hall

Members attending: Keith Davis(KD), Roy Lanson(RL), Jillian Mustion(JM), Shanon Grasso(SG)

**Called to order at 7:00PM**

### **Old Business**

Review/approve prior meeting minutes: see below

### **New Business**

#### **New Reserve requests – none**

- Approve meeting minutes covering the 1/9/20 meeting. Shannon made a motion to accept which was seconded by Roy and the motion passed unanimously.
- This committee has been invited to a town wide budget workshop on Saturday, 3/21/20 from 9-12 am. Keith will send out the email for members to respond if they can attend.
- Sixteen budget requests for FY 20-21 were received: Printing, Selectmen, Legal, Moderator, Town Hall, Accountant, Treasurer, Tax Collector, Ambulance, Conservation, Fire, Health, Library, a draft for WES, Assessor, and Planning. Chief Croake came to discuss his budget request, see below. All other requests were tabled for discussion at the next finance committee meeting to be held on 2/20/20 at 5:30pm.
- Discussion on the Fire Department's budget request: The fire department expenses line item is increased due to the cost of testing and inspections going up. Also the town added almost a mile of 5" hose to the inventory that is due for its first inspection since purchase.

The chief's contract with the town ends on 6/30/20. He expects to be in contract negotiations with BOS soon and wanted to alert the finance committee of his requested salary.

Chief is requesting an increase in pay for his deputy and engineer for their years of service and additional duties performed on the job. Jillian suggested a separately identified skills increase for additional duties/certifications instead of a salary increase.

Chief would like to add his assistant as a separate line item. The position had been previously paid out of firefighter salaries. He would like to officially add the position for transparency and to utilize all of the firefighter salaries line item to offset the increase in minimum wage.

The vehicle maintenance line item increase of \$3,000 was requested due to the aging of the fire fleet. The average age currently being 17 years with a life expectancy of 20 years. The pumps also require yearly overhauling due to Wales not having a hydrant system and natural resources being utilized for the water supply. A new combo engine/rescue vehicle is on the chief's capital plan for FY22.

The semi-permanent garage requested is a corrugated aluminum 2 bay structure which would be used to house the town's boat and brush truck.

The SCBA bottle request is due to the current bottles being expired and therefore not serviceable after June 2020. This amount is to replace all 30 bottles with refurbished ones with a life expectancy of five years. The chief is combining with Holland and Brimfield to write a federal grant to replace these bottles with new ones, 15 year life span, potentially in 2021. If the grant is approved the refurbished bottles can be sold. Discussion was held to begin replacing the bottles a few at a time in the future to allow for back-ups and to keep the entire stock from reaching end of life at the same time.

The chief also has an outstanding vehicle maintenance bill and a verbal reserve request for a new jaws of life device to the meeting. The current jaws of life failed on a call and are no longer supported for maintenance by the manufacturer due to age. Since the chief's vehicle maintenance budget has already been exhausted for the year Keith advised him to write up both reserve requests to be considered at the finance committee's next meeting.

- Discussion was conducted on funding from Norcross. The monies from Norcross are not actually from a PILOT agreement but given out of respect to the town. No formal agreement exists.
- Discussion was held on upcoming meetings: The finance committee will be meeting on 2/20/20, 2/27/20, 3/12/20. Keith will attend the 2/24/20 BOS meeting to appraise them of the current standing of the budget. A joint BOS and finance committee meeting will be held on 3/23/20. The annual open budget meeting will be 4/2/20.

Meeting adjourned: 9:10pm

Reserve balance before meeting: \$37,500 After meeting: \$37,500

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