

Town of Wales

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, 13 Feb 2018 @ 7:00 PM

Wales Town Hall

In attendance: Keith Davis, Kimberly Jorge, Nicholas Jorge, Roy Lainson

Called to order at 7:02PM

Prior Meeting Minutes

Motion by Nick to approve the meeting minutes from 01/10/18

Seconded by Keith

All in favor

Motion passed unanimously

Meeting with Road Commissioner Bruce Cadieux

Bruce: small equipment purchase line item. General highway funds are currently being used for maintenance and repair which is limiting. He is asking for \$5,000 for small equipment. He is also looking to convert his seasonal employee to full time, which is how this position was before Bruce became road commissioner. He describes it as difficult to hire seasonal employees. He is currently paying overtime to his employees in the winter as the seasonal employee only works over the summer. This position would be a basic laborer without any required licensing. They would be able to drive smaller trucks. The full cost of employee benefits including benefits would be \$56,700 in the worst case scenario. He does not believe that this staffing change would save any money by preventing the town from having to hire out during snowstorms as we only hire out once in a while. This position would be union and could therefore gain large wage increases over the years, particularly if he or she acquires licensing. The vehicle repair parts line item is also being requested to increase by \$8,000. This is due to snow and ice being off the table for snowstorm related repairs. Last year the deficit for snow and ice was \$21,501. With respect to salary increases, he built in a two percent increase but is awaiting union negotiations.

Chevy 1800: This truck is almost fixed. GM will not maintain 2008 trucks because of emissions regulations and so it could not be serviced. Our 2001 truck should still be supported.

FY19 Budget Requests

Several budget request included requests to create new positions or expand the scope of current positions. These decisions will be deferred to BOS.

We tentatively approved the following budgets as requested (except for salary items):

- Town Clerk
- Finance Committee (no changes)
- Assessors
- Conservation
- Highway Snow & Ice
- Board of Health

For other departments, we have these issues to review further:

- Accountant. However, the Finance Committee will be following up with questions regarding the Assistant Accountant. BOS only approved the position through the end of FY18 and did not set the amount for the new employee.
- Senior Center Director is requesting to receive a Salary increase and to be changed from a part-time employee (19hrs / week) to a full-time employee with benefits. The Finance Committee will be reaching out the BOS for their input on this decision.
- For the Highway request to be moved from PT to FT, Roy provided the following Total Employee cost found during his research:
 - \$27,760 Salary
 - \$425 Boots/Tools/Clothing Allowance
 - \$1,350 Unemployment Insurance
 - \$23,726 Medical Insurance (assuming family plan)
 - \$414 Dental Insurance (assuming family plan)
 - \$25 Life Insurance
 - \$2,498 Hampden County Retirement (this is revised from during the meeting as it was originally stated as \$3,000)
 - **TOTAL ESTIMATED AMOUNT: \$56,198**

There was a discussion of the Snow and Ice deficit amounts that occur each year. Roy will review prior years and share the history of deficits from past years, which will be helpful in determining the appropriate amount to add to the Highway budget in FY19 (and therefore decrease deficits going forward).

A Reserve request of \$6,000 was made by the Highway Department to cover the purchase of an emergency sander that was added to the smaller truck as the larger sander truck has been out of commission since November and won't be back until mid to late February. Roy made a motion to approve \$4,000 with the remaining amounts to be spent from the Snow & Ice account (going into deficit if necessary). Nicholas seconded the motion, all were in favor. Reserve balance after vote = \$8,897.00.

Nick made a motion to adjourn, Keith seconded. All were in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 8:35p.

Reserve:
Beginning \$12,897.00
End of meeting: \$8,897.00