

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 18, 2013

ATTENDANCE: CHAIRMAN, ED HOAK; NANCY GAJOLI, CHERYL MARSHALL, DEAN LARABEE, FIRE CHIEF, SCOTT FOURNIER; AND TOWN ACCOUNTANT, KATHERINE AVILLA.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman, Ed Hoak at 7:06 PM

This meeting was a scheduled budget hearing for the purpose of continuing the FY2014 budget process. This budget hearing involved general ledger 220 (Fire Department), 230 (Ambulance), 290 (Tree) and 420 (Highway).

MINUTES: The minutes of March 4, 2013 were read, seconded and passed. The minutes of March 13, 2013 were read, seconded and passed with an amendment.

REVIEW OF FIRE DEPARTMENT (G/L 220): Mr. Fournier would like to add clerical support for FY2014. At present, he is preparing all of the paperwork himself which keeps him from being able to perform other important tasks. He would also like to see daytime coverage expanded. The fire department is constantly on the lookout for grant monies to augment their budget, and the department has recently been awarded several grants worth over \$ 8,000. Mr. Fournier stressed the need for a new pumper truck – the existing one is well past its expected life and needed costly repairs in FY2013. This is not an expense we can wait much longer on. A new pumper truck is \$ 220,000. He also recommends we begin using the IMC software. This is an application currently being used by the police department. The cost of the software is \$ 20,000, and there would be a recurring annual fee of \$ 2,295.

REVIEW OF AMBULANCE (G/L 230): Personnel costs were discussed. Contracts for fire and ambulance are currently in negotiation. Mr. Fournier would like to see a small increase for expenses. The costs of medical supplies and vehicle maintenance are increasing. FY2015 is when he will be requesting a new ambulance.

REVIEW OF TREE (G/L 290): Mr. Fournier reviewed the duties and role of the tree warden. With the difficult weather we have been experiencing, he stated that this role has been consuming up to 30% of his time. Due to the rough shape many of the town trees are in, he would like to see a small increase in tree expense. He also stated that the emergency tree work budget is used to hire a tree contractor to do work for the town, and that if we wanted to increase that line there was plenty of for a contractor to do. It is possible if this area is declared a disaster area that we may see some reimbursement for all of the tree related work that has been done during or as a result of storms.

REVIEW OF HIGHWAY (G/L 420): The highway department contract was renewed in FY2013. Snow and ice has been well ahead of budget this year, and was roughly \$ 165,000 as of the meeting. Mr. Fournier expressed some hope that the mapping of the town for stormwater management would be concluded soon. He discussed the town's policies for recycling and refuse removal. He discussed the need for the larger truck that he has been requesting. He also stated that the highway department is in need of a new backup generator and described the difficulty the town experienced with the current inefficient generator during the blizzard. A new power generator is estimated to cost \$ 40,000 and the 8/10 yard sander/dump/plow truck would be \$ 150,000.

A motion was made; second to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 PM, approved unanimously.