

FINCOM MEETING MINUTES

April 8, 2014

ATTENDANCE: ED HOAK; CHAIRMAN, MICHELE HAMILTON, NANCY GAJOLI, DEAN LARABEE, PAUL MODLOWSKI; EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, KATHERINE AVILLA; TOWN ACCOUNTANT, STEVE CATELLINA, LINDA HOWERTON AND GEORGE MILLER, SELECTMEN, PAUL BOUCHER; BUILDING INSPECTOR, PRISCILLA MARTIN; COUNCIL ON AGING, DONALD HIRSCHY; VETERANS, GEORGE FARIA AND LISA TETREAU, ANIMAL CONTROL

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM

BUDGET HEARING - COUNSEL: Staying level at \$ 40,000.

BUDGET HEARING - BUILDING MAINTENANCE: Fuel is expected to stay level. The building heat is going to be propane. There is a cost associated with taking down the existing modular building. Water and street lights are level from last year.

BUDGET HEARING - MISCELLANEOUS AND SELECTMEN: Insurance is down slightly. Executive secretary is going up the contracted amount. Custodian contract is a new expense. The expense for 2014 is \$ 10,000 and will cover 5 months. Tim McCarthy helped Paul determine what the expense would be. The expense may be modified depending on actual hours worked. Office expenses are up slightly. The budget line serves as a catch all for town expenses, meetings, et al.

BUDGET HEARING - BUILDING INSPECTOR: Budget based on 220 inspections per year. The department is seeking an increase in hours for the office manager and an increase in salary. The department is looking to increase hours 9 1/2 per week for the office manager and this is justified by increased workload. A raise was requested, but part time employees have not gotten raises in years and it would have to be decided by the personnel board. If nothing else, it would be desirable to be open on Tuesdays.

BUDGET HEARING - ACO: The budget difficulties of the current budget year appear to be under control. There are repairs needed to existing vehicles. \$ 3,000 was requested for an increase in personnel line. It was discussed that the account could be set up as a revolving fund. Licenses and kennel fees are running in excess of the budget request.

BUDGET HEARING - COA: Increase postage \$ 500. The newsletter costs \$ 250 per month. They would like to add \$ 250 each for office supplies and wellness programs. They would like to see a part time director added at some point. Ed requested comparable of other towns and how they were handling their COA needs. The COA area will not be completed when the building is done.

BUDGET HEARING - VETERANS: Looking to level fund personnel and is seeking an increase in benefit to \$ 50,000. \$ 43,000 to \$ 45,000 would be an amenable figure to Cathy as transferring \$ 10,000 plus is too much per year. Currently the caseload in Berkley is 5 veterans. Caseload has been consistent. In Berkley there are 3 vets and 2 widows. The arrangement for cost sharing is reviewed annually. Expense line will stay the same. The expense line is essentially an assessment. The Valor Act II passed by the governor has mandated training and certification for veterans agents. The training has not been set yet, but \$ 500 was requested on anticipation of the training.

Meeting adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 15, 2014 at 6:30 PM.