

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 16, 2015

ATTENDANCE: CHAIRMAN; ED HOAK, NANCY GAJOLI, DEAN LARABEE, LIBRARY DIRECTOR, WILLIAM SCHNELLER, LIBRARY TRUSTEES; CAROL ENTEL, JUNE MOSKAL, ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN/TECHNICAL SERVICES; VICKIE DAWSON, FIRE CHIEF; SCOTT FORNIER, TOWN ACCOUNTANT; KATHY AVILLA.

LOCATION: FIRE STATION # 2

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN, ED HOAK, AT 6:43.

This meeting was called and serves as the annual budget hearing for Library, Fire, Ambulance, Tree and Highway.

REVIEW OF MINUTES: Minutes of March 9, 2015 were approved as written.

PUBLIC HEARING - LIBRARY, LINE 610: The funds required to not require a waiver for FY16 will be \$ 118,360. Materials spending needs to be 15.2% of total spending. Payroll request is firm; director's salary needs to be negotiated. State aid is roughly \$ 26,000 at present. It appears that we will qualify for mid level state aid, which equates to 90 percent of the full benefit. FINCOM approved usage of payroll overage for general expenses. At present there is \$ 9,824.84 available there. The main stairs are in need of replacement and the windows are in rough shape as well. The state aid account will be utilized to repair the stair treads.

PUBLIC HEARING - FIRE, LINE 220: Wages are up slightly. The day fireman is expected to continue. The call personnel all received a pay increase due to position differentiation. Wages are determined by the personnel board. Scott spoke to the Selectmen about the Fire Chief role. In order to create the position properly, it will cost roughly \$ 10,000. Expenses are up \$ 4,000. So far this year, no restocking items have been purchased. There is \$ 6,000 left, but it is clear to the Chief that the current budget is insufficient. Our equipment is not all up to code; roughly 2/3s is up to code. The new tanker truck is due around Memorial Day.

PUBLIC HEARING - AMBULANCE, LINE 230: Personnel is up 12% as the Chief is looking to add a new medic. Due to the lack of a medic on Sunday's, roughly \$ 51,000 in revenues were lost due to needing mutual aid. Would it be possible to extract the capital from ambulance user - the chief said no. Contracted Services was voted up in November to cover computer replacement. The ambulance expense line was appropriated at \$ 16,500 and we have only \$ 1,345 remaining. Contracted services are also well used and there is only \$ 298 remaining. The chief would be pleased if we could edge the amount up slightly, but \$ 20,000 would be very useful. Union contract is in good shape, and the same request is being made this year. The IMC software is back on the request this year. Pagers are needed and any amount would allow us to begin replacement. Pagers are expected to last 5-7 years; ours are 15+ years old. Stretcher/stair chairs currently being used are from the 1970s. Replacement parts are roughly \$ 17,199.

PUBLIC HEARING - TREE, LINE 290: Roughly half of the funds are available for tree work. Scott would like one line for tree expense. A higher contribution to tree expense would allow Scott to keep up.

PUBLIC HEARING - HIGHWAY, LINE 420: Payroll expense is a fixed figure, plus capital for Union related expenses. The negotiations are ongoing. Scott is requesting a 5% increase for highway expense. 3% increase automatic for trash. Snow and ice expense deficit is roughly \$ 154,000 as of the beginning of March. Scott estimates that the final deficit will be close to \$ 250,000. Scott indicated that MEMA has reopened the potential for some blizzard reimbursement. Union contract is up slightly for uniforms, licenses, etc. There are two plow units on the budget for used trucks. Two trucks were ruined by the harsh winter. A lease strategy for 2 new trucks will cost \$ 66,000 per year for 5 years. Police are looking to receive detail pay, so a police detail fund is looking to be established. The highway garage needs a new galvanized roof. \$ 8,000 is needed for materials only. \$ 40,000 is the quote to have it properly repaired by a roofer.

ADJOURNED AT 8:47 PM.

Next meeting is expected to be March 30, 2015 at 6:30 PM.