

Finance Committee Meeting
March 6, 2013
7:30 PM
Municipal Center – Selectmen’s Conference Room

Present: Chair, Lee Tarantino; Vice-Chair, Michael Flaherty; Peter Carignan; Thomas DeLuca; Jackie Desrochers (late arrival); Richard Dorney; Paul Helmreich; William Rotondi; Michael Thomas.
Also present: Town Manager, Michael Yunits.

Absent: Stephen Evans.

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

I. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Ms. Desrochers to approve the March 4, 2013 Finance Committee minutes as written. Seconded by Mr. Helmreich. Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

II. New Business

FY14 Proposed Departmental Budgets

Highway Department –

Mr. Keith Silver, Highway Superintendent, explained that the salaries portion of the budget includes contractual increases. He also noted that the proposed budget includes the addition of a position. He said that a position was cut years ago and thinks that it is time to fill it.

Mr. Silver said that most of the Expenses have been level-funded. He noted slight increases in a few areas. It was also noted that the department has added a Trash line item. Mr. Silver explained this was for clean up after community events.

Mr. Tarantino commended Mr. Silver on the department’s efforts throughout the town.

A discussion was had about the hiring of 2 seasonal employees, as has been done in the past. Mr. Yunits said that an application, to restrict seasonal employees from collecting unemployment when the season is over, has been rejected. He said that an appeal has been filed and he will continue to follow up on this matter.

Mr. Tarantino noted that Snow and Ice over-time (in the amount of \$18,500 acct# 5110) has been listed under the Highway Department’s budget and should be its own. It was agreed by all that it should be removed and put into the Snow and Ice budget.

Snow and Ice Removal –

It was noted that Snow and Ice is always budgeted for \$80K because the state allows for towns to go over the budgeted amount for Snow and Ice Removal, and if desired can be deferred and be taken from the following year’s Cherry Sheet.

Mr. Flaherty asked Mr. Silver about the fines for outside (non-town) snow plowers that were instituted last year.

Mr. Silver said that it is very difficult to monitor whose putting what snow and where. He also said that when there is a lot of snow, the plowers just have to put it where they can.

Sanitary Landfill –

Mr. Yunits explained that this budget is for the monitoring and testing done every year on the landfill.

Assessors Department –

Mr. Yunits explained that the department is looking to increase the part-time position’s hours from 20 to 28 because of a workload increase. He also noted that most items on the Expenses portion are level-funded. It was pointed out that the Contracted Services line item has increased due to the department’s move to using GIS Services for mapping.

Town Assessor, Lisa Cathcart, explained that the mapping line item has gone up because of the GIS system that is now in place and that the department is doing more town mapping.

Board of Health –

Mr. Yunits explained that the BoH requested that the part-time employee's hours be increased to 20 hours per week. He said that he did not recommend the increase to 20 hours at this time but that 18 hours instead.

Mr. Leon Dumont, Board of Health agent, explained that the department receives many grants and pays for a lot of their necessities through these grants (computers, storage facility). He urged the FinCom to consider not making any cuts to the Board of Health budget.

Public Health Nurse –

Mr. Dumont informed the FinCom that Donna Palmer, the Public Health Nurse, will be honored on March 26th at the State House as a result of her handling of TB cases in town. The FinCom members offered their support and congratulations.

Council on Aging –

Mr. Yunits explained that this department mostly runs on donations. The little that is not donations (utilities) is level-funded.

Mr. Tarantino noted that the part-time wages in this department is for the running of the fuel-assistance program.

III. Other Business

Mr. Tarantino shared a copy of the correspondence he received from Chief Clark regarding the importance and need for School Response Officers. This was a follow-up from Monday's meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2013 at 7:30 pm.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Mr. Helmreich to adjourn at 8:25 pm. Seconded by Mr. DeLuca Vote: Unanimous.
Motion carries.

Documents Referenced:

Minutes of March 4, 2013
Budget #420 – Highway
Budget #423 – Snow and Ice Removal
Budget #438 – Sanitary Landfill
Budget #141 – Assessors
Budget #510 – Board of Health
Budget #522 – Public Health Nurse
Budget #541 – Council on Aging
Correspondence from Chief Clark – School Response Officers

Respectfully Submitted by:

Lee Tarantino, Finance Committee Chair

Date Approved

Sara Lyons, Finance Committee Secretary