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TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Joint Budget Meeting, Selectboard and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Town Hall, 334 Main Street Great Barrington MA 01230

Tuesday January 29, 2019 at 6:00 pm

PRESENT

Steve Bannon
Ed Abrahams
Dan Bailly
Bill Cooke

Finance Committee

Tom Blauvelt
Will Curletti
Michelle Loubert
Janet Lee
Anne O'Dwyer

I. Call to Order

Steve Bannon called the joint meeting to order at 6:00PM.

II. FY20 Budget Review

a. Technology

Amy Pulver, Administrative Assistant for the Town Manager and Selectboard presented the technology budget. Ms. Pulver said the budget covers various technology expenses for all Town Departments. Ms. Pulver said the FY20 budget includes new costs for fiber optic connection hook up in the Town Hall. Ms. Pulver said once the Town Hall has fiber optic the Waste Water Treatment Plant will be able to access the high speed internet. Dan Bailly asked if the fiber optic internet will increase the monthly internet bill. Ms. Pulver said fiber optic is less expensive than what the Town currently pays for internet.

b. Building Inspectors

Town Accountant, Sue Carmel presented on behalf of the Buildings Department. Ms. Carmel reported minimal changes in the Building Inspectors budget with an overall increase of .27% which accounts for the contractual salary increases. Dan Bailly asked for the total revenue collected by this department. Ms. Carmel reported \$243,000 was collected in FY18.

c. Board of Health

Rebecca Jurczyk, Health Agent presented the Board of Health budget. Ms. Jurczyk said the most notable change in the budget is the addition of the Animal Inspector lines into the Board of Health budget. The two lines for the stipend under salary and expenses under contracted services were moved from the general public health budget into this specific budget because the Animal Inspector is an employee of the Health Department. Michelle Loubert asked what the difference is between the Animal Inspector and the Animal Control Officer. Ms. Jurczyk answered that the Animal Control Officer is an employee of the Police Department and enforces bylaws like the leash law. The Animal Inspector is a stipend position mandated by the State Department of Public Health to inspect farms and barns and follow up on animal bites for exposure to rabies. Ms. Jurczyk said she is anticipating increasing the contracted services line by about \$4,000 to cover the expenses of a used syringe collection service. Dan Bailly asked for the amount collected in revenue in the last previous year. Ms. Jurczyk said almost \$70,000 was collected in FY18 from inspectional and permit fees.

d. Council on Aging

Polly Mann Salenovich, Director of Council on Aging presented the FY20 budget. Ms. Salenovich spoke about the \$50,000 granted awarded to the Senior Center and how it will largely be dedicated to outreach and marketing to increase attendance. Michelle Loubert asked for specifics on how the outreach and marketing will be conducted. Ms. Salenovich said mailings will go and the target audience will be seniors that currently do not visit the senior center. Michelle Loubert confirmed that outreach and increased marketing is very important.

e. Veterans' Affairs

Sue Carmel presented the FY20 Veterans' Affairs budget. The Town Accountant said the veterans' affairs officer is regionally based and Great Barrington is responsible for a portion of the overall salary and expenses. Ms. Carmel said the FY20 budget will decrease \$33,751.00 to better reflect what is actually needed to fund this position.

f. Libraries

Amanda DeGiorgis, the Library Director presented the Library Budget. Tom Blauvelt recused himself from the discussion on behalf of the Finance Committee. Ms. DeGiorgis said the libraries collected \$18,000 in late fines and copy machine fees in FY18. An increase in \$15,335 was requested for both Mason and Ramsdell Library. Ms. DeGiorgis said that the increase in the Travel and Training line is to cover the expenses to send at least one employee to a national conference, something the department has never been able to do. Dan Bailly asked how the new Sunday hours are working out for Ramsdell Library. Ms. DeGiorgis reported that Sunday have turned into the busiest day of the week for Ramsdell Library.

g. Celebrations & Events

The Town Accountant presented the FY20 budget for Celebrations and Events. Ms. Carmel said the W.E.B Du Bois Committee requested \$10,000 but \$5,000 had been put into the budget. Michelle Loubert asked what events are funded through this budget line. The Town Manager said in the previous year the Holiday Stroll, Memorial Day Parade, and the Du Bois Celebration were all given Town donations. Michelle Loubert asked the Town Accountant to bring a breakdown of expenditures from this line to the next meeting for further discussion. Steve Bannon requested that this be placed as a topic for discussion on the February 6, 2019 joint meeting agenda.

III. Citizen Speak Time

IV. Adjournment

On a motion made by Dan Bailly, seconded by Ed Abrahams, the joint Selectboard and Finance Committee meeting adjourned at 6:40PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca Jurczyk', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rebecca Jurczyk