

FINANCE & SELECTBOARD COMMITTEE MINUTES – Feb 17, 2021 06:30pm

Selectboard Members Present: Leigh Davis, Steve Bannon, Ed Abrahams, Bill Cooke

Finance Committee Members Present: Anne O'Dwyer, Meredith O'Connor, Michelle Loubert, Will Curletti, Tom Blauvelt

1. Called to order at 6:31pm by Steve
2. Conservation Commission
 - a. Highlights by Chris Rembold (Assistant Town Manager)
 - i. Minor increase for Conservation Agent
 - ii. Minor increase for trail repairs & maintenance
3. Planning Board
 - a. Highlights by Chris
 - i. Level-funded budget
 - ii. Meet 2x + per month
 - iii. Pedro suggests the Board suggests giving the Planning Board an extra \$500 for guests to give talks to the community. Mark will discuss with Sue. Leigh suggested this might be problematic because other boards might want this as well...
4. Zoning Board of Appeals
 - a. Highlights by Chris
 - i. No increase; trainings split off from office supplies
5. Planning/Community Development
 - a. Highlights by Chris
 - i. Stipend for a person to support affordable housing efforts
 - ii. Budget unchanged
 - iii. Leigh asked if we are saving any money by getting rid of the Economic Development Committee. Chris responded that they had no budget.
6. Buildings & Grounds
 - a. Highlights by Sean Van Deusen
 - i. Some of the actuals were odd this year due to COVID
 - ii. Contracted Services increase: due to increased cost for specialized services (HVAC, etc.)
 - iii. Gas & Oil increase
 - iv. Ed asked about Labor & Operator budget. Sean responded that they budget as if they were fully staffed.
7. Highway
 - a. Highlights by Sean
 - i. Increase in street maintenance & repairs
 - ii. Cost of equipment, mechanics
 - iii. Asphalt -> oil cost increase
 - iv. Contracted services: small increase (repairs, fuel)
 - v. Police detail: broken out from equipment & maintenance (accounting)
 - vi. Fully staffed

- vii. Kate asked where the police detail line item was coming from? Sean replied that Tree removal & maintenance was a major factor. Leigh appreciated that the line item was broken out.
- 8. Council on Aging
 - a. Highlights by Polly (Council on Aging Director)
 - i. Increase in Transportation line item
 - ii. Ed congratulated Polly on her hard work and dedication on this project
- 9. Libraries
 - a. Highlights by Amanda DeGiorgis
 - i. Salary increases; otherwise level-funded
- 10. Parks & Recreation
 - a. Highlights by Sean
 - i. Increase in cost of wood chips, clay
 - ii. Youth programming (increased cost – minimum wage increased)
 - iii. Increase in waste managements (more port-a-potties)
 - iv. Maintenance costs decreased
 - v. Lake management – once per year instead of twice per year
- 11. Wastewater
 - a. Highlights by Sean
 - i. Increase in repairs since they are expensive/specialized
 - ii. Same with respect to contracted services
 - iii. Staff lines: reallocated
- 12. Capital
 - a. Highlights by Chris
 - i. Lower, to control debt services costs
 - ii. Financial impacts due to COVID
 - iii. No bids, or overbids
 - iv. An overview of each project was provided.
 - v. Kate asked about the police request: doesn't seem straightforward or consistent. Sue replied they are updating the budget policy; operating budget <vs> borrowing.
 - vi. Kate remarked that we have a very large amount of debt services this year. Should we move the radios & computers _now_ into the operating budget? Sue responded that her intention is to move everything next week into the operating budget. Anne added that the impact is minimized for the next year (re: borrowing), however she is worried about the following year.
 - vii. Sean noted that the generator for the police station (not in budget) will require a quarter million dollars. Steve asked Paul Storti (Police Chief) if there was potential for a Homeland Security grant for this project. Paul responded that we are not aware of any opportunities as of current.
 - viii. There was additional discussion regarding the four other capital items.
 - 1. Reid Cleaners
 - 2. Parking Lot

- a. Options proposed in 1930, 1949, 1950s, 1970s, 1990s, and again today! Further discussion ensued.
- 3. No major street improvements
- 4. (01:14:30 TBC)

13. Citizen Speak

Respectfully submitted by Tate Coleman, Recording Secretary (October 4, 2021)