

CHARLEMONT SELECT BOARD MEETING – CHARLEMONT TOWN HALL

(Joint Meeting with Charlemont FINANCE COMMITTEE)

March 31, 2017

Members Present: Finance Committee - Lynn Hathaway, Rich Filoramo, Amy Wales, Ron Smith;
SelectBoard - Toby Gould, Beth Bandy

Also in attendance: Peg Dean, Town Administrator

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:03 a.m.
2. The minutes of the March 18, 2017 Joint Meeting were reviewed and approved.
3. The SelectBoard discussed the Fire Department's request for a pay raise with the Finance Committee. Doug recommended that officers be paid according to their rank. The SelectBoard determined that the Fire Department's pay was low at \$10.76/hour. They recommended that probationary members receive \$11/hour, and all others receive \$13/hour. Last year there were 1,200 hours of service performed by the Fire Department. The expense to the Town can be expected to be less than \$3,000. The SelectBoard proposed addressing pay for the entire Town as a project for the FY2018.
4. Bob Handsaker appeared to discuss the Broadband Warrant Article for \$1,000 Annual Dues to Wired West. Over the past five years Charlemont has paid \$2,000 to Wired West. For being a member, the organization has been an advocate for the towns to present broadband options, including researching statutes to find possible savings and solutions for internet access. He also offered that if Wired West ran our network, we could save \$10 - \$15/month per household, depending on the take rate. Toby Gould felt this would be a worthwhile investment, as MBI would not have been moved to act as quickly without the "push" from Wired West.
5. Peg Dean is in need of a new filing cabinet. As it turned out, Amy Wales said that she has one available that the Town could have for free. Peg thought this could work, and will go look at it.
6. Capital Improvement Committee recommendations:
 - a. Amy recommended that Items 4, 5 and 6 (fire turnout gear, hose and pickup trucks) should be funded from the Stabilization Account - \$29,000.
 - b. Items 1, 2 and 3 (highway truck, police cruiser and Scott air packs and bottles) should be funded through debt, with exclusion. Amy Wales moved to accept both of these recommendations. Rich Filoramo seconded. The motion passed. The amount borrowed would be \$286,150. That would leave the Town with a levy capacity of \$8,576.
 - c. Item #7 – Transfer Station Paper Compactor – at a cost of \$6,000 is to be shared with the town of Shelburne, and will be funded with Special Revenue Funds and grants, with no funds needed to be approved by the Town Meeting.
 - d. For the Town Meeting, funding sources can be included in the warrant articles handouts.
 - e. Hawlemont Pre-K Article for \$14,000: Amy suggested we wait to recommend/not recommend until we receive all the warrant articles.

7. The Broadband contracts have not been signed. The Select Board will wait and review them at its April 24th meeting.
8. Peg will work with Amy on preparing the presentation for the ATM.
9. Discussion on Financial Policies was postponed to a future meeting.
10. Omnibus budget: Rich Filoramo moved that no more than \$50,000 be put into the Stabilization Account from Free Cash. The motion was seconded and passed.
11. Revolving Fund Accounts: Toby and Amy will review the special accounts, then have Lynn and Justin look at them.
12. Ambulance situation: there is no money to fund the RFP's at the present time, and so we're putting them on hold. Our license will likely be renewed. The Recreation Tax is still pending. Beth Bandy moved that the Ambulance issue be brought back for discussion at the October 1, 2017 SelectBoard meeting. Toby seconded, and the motion passed.
13. Fuel Delivery monitoring: should be posted in only one account, such as Highway. Toby will talk with Gordon about the process.
14. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 14, 2017, at 8:00 a.m. The main purpose will be to recommend/not recommend warrant articles.
15. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Smith

Documents reviewed:

Wired West Financial Statements

FY2018 Budget Sheets

Free Cash Policies

Capital Improvement Committee Recommendations