

The Finance Committee

Town of Charlemont

January 16, 2015

Present: Amy Wales, Toby Gould, Rich Filoramo, Ron Smith, Beth Bandy, Carlene Millett.

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 AM.

Carlene brought to the Finance Committee, an offer from MCI to settle an ATB appeal for \$14,000. She will ask town counsel if the assessors can accept the offer.

The minutes of the November 21 meeting were accepted.

We approved a 2016 budget for the Finance Committee of \$150.00 which is no change from previous years.

There is a recommendation from the Ambulance Service Advisory Committee to raise EMT salaries from \$13.01 to \$18.00 per hour. Concerns were raised about when raises take place. Finance Committee is in favor of increasing calls to a minimum of four hours. Further, the Finance Committee cautions against mid-budget year raises.

The Selectboard has chosen Peg Dean as town administrator and negotiations are almost complete for the administrator to begin February 2.

Budget request schedule begins February 27 and then tentatively weekly through March.

Next meeting is February 27 at 8:30 AM.

A discussion of the Wired West proposal took place. Joe Makarian from FRCOG and Jim Drawe from Wired West made a presentation on the financial implications of the Wired West proposal for high speed Internet for the forty western Mass towns. The total cost of the WW proposal for Charlemont is \$2.67M with the town's share of the state \$40M is \$1.168M The maximum town obligation at \$1.502M.

How to pay? First two years, interest only which can be absorbed in annual budget. After two years, free cash could be used to pay off principle of bonding amount. Receipts from subscriptions will be returned to member towns after Wired West meets expenses to help pay bond costs.

Many technical financial questions were asked and answered throughout the discussion.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Toby Gould