

CHARLEMONT FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING – CHARLEMONT TOWN HALL

(Joint Meeting with Charlemont Board of Selectmen)

April 16, 2016

Members Present: Finance Committee – Lynn Hathaway, Ron Smith, Amy Wales, Rich Filoramo; Select Board – Sarah Reynolds, Toby Gould, Beth Bandy

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by the Chair, Amy Wales.
2. The minutes of the April 1, 2016 were reviewed, approved and signed.
3. Emergency Management Budget: Mike Walsh addressed the meeting by cell-speakerphone. Mentioned possibility of Town purchasing land adjacent to Fairgrounds. He will meet later with Toby Gould to discuss further. Questioned about fire hydrant request, not sure where it came from, could have been from a former Select Board member. Wants a portable generator to use at Town Hall, that could also be moved to another location. Would use a contractor for maintenance. Sandbags – need to keep an adequate supply on hand. He requested \$500,000 for an Emergency Operations building. He was asked to develop the plan further before presenting it to the Town, and will work with his liaison. The phone line expense at the Fairgrounds should be moved from the Parks and Recreation account to the EMD account.
4. There was a discussion with Peg Dean about quotes for a new fuel monitoring system. The current quote is from FL Roberts, and is “very expensive”. Peg was asked to get other quotes. Peg is also researching insulation for the fire station through an energy saving program.
5. Take \$15,000 out of the Fire Station Operating budget, and move to a Capital item of “Fire Station Repairs”.
6. Town Employees Health Insurance costs: it was asked if we could know earlier in the year what the new costs will be. It is no longer an issue, as we evidently do know early enough.
7. Joe Markarian from FRCOG, our consultant for our Capital Improvement Program, appeared for the meeting. First, Sarah Reynolds outlined where we are with our bridge problem. There is a bill in the legislature to repair small bridges. But the Town needs to pay the engineering costs. There is also the possibility of FEMA paying for repair of the Tower Road bridge. Joe looked at possible ways to finance bridge repairs through debt service. (He passed out a handout). Joe said we need a plan to tackle all the bridges, including a priority list and a timeframe for repairs and maintenance. He suggested a working group of three people, with visible support from the Select Board. Funding options need to be considered. We need an article for the May Annual Town Meeting to pay for the top three priority bridge repairs. Lynn Hathaway agreed to serve on the task force. Amy Wales asked that they not consider funds right now, but the needs, and let the Town go out for financing. Should consider State qualified bonds program, based on State aid. Joe gave a handout on a structure and bylaw for our Capital Improvement Program.
8. Recreation Tax: Joe feels the prospects of legislature passage are unpredictable. There was a question if the tax was included in revenue growth, would it impact Chap. 70? Amy checked with Roger Hatch, and he didn’t think so.
9. Federal Surplus use: Peg will write an amendment for the ATM.
10. Legal Counsel Budget: account is overdrawn, and more expenses are expected. Board of Selectmen will check with law firm to assess its need. Funds can be transferred from the Reserve Fund, or can do an end of year transfer. Can also do a warrant at ATM.

11. The next meeting will be April 27 at 7:30 p.m.
12. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Smith

Documents distributed:

- FY 2017 Budget Worksheet
- Charlemont Long Range Planning Capital Expenses
- Draft Three of Charlemont Recreation Tax Law
- Memo from Justin Cole, re: Legal Budget FY 2016
- Bridge Repair Debt Service costs sheet from Joe Markarian
- Town of Charlemont Capital Improvement Program Policy

This document is a draft until approved and signed by the Finance Committee