

CHARLEMONT SELECT BOARD MEETING – CHARLEMONT TOWN HALL

(Joint Meeting with FINANCE COMMITTEE)

April 28, 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 8:02 a.m.
2. The minutes of the March 31, 2017 meeting were reviewed and approved.
3. The Free Cash policy was reviewed and approved as presented.
4. The Stabilization policy was reviewed and approved as presented.
5. Bob Handsaker appeared to make a report of the Broadband Committee. He mentioned that there is now an EOHD Grant Program designed for towns who wish to build their own municipal network. He said right now there are four options for Charlemont:
  - a. Comcast – their proposal is “up in the air”.
  - b. Matrix – kind of expensive, and doesn’t meet State requirements for the grant program.
  - c. Crocker – the Town could pay the cost and make it free for subscribers, or have a revenue guarantee with the Town making up any difference.
  - d. Westfield Gas & Electric (WG&E) – is now being considered.

Our EOHD Grant application was submitted this past Wednesday, and we may hear back in about three weeks. Cheryl Handsaker is trying to work out a contract for pole surveying with WG&E.

We need to know what the expense will be before June 30 so that we can do short-term borrowing to cover. Bob is the “point person” for Broadband questions. Lynn needs to have any requests in by June 25.

6. There was surplus government equipment that was actually borrowed, but was auctioned off by mistake many years ago. The government wants back what we have plus a payment of \$896 for the things that were sold. There is currently no line item for this account.
7. Amy Wales moved the following: put \$100,000 in Stabilization from Free Cash; fund Article 11 from Stabilization; and fund Articles 16, 17 and 18 from Stabilization. The motion was seconded and passed.

Amy moved that Articles 13, 14, and 15 be funded through borrowing, with debt exclusion. Rich Filoramo seconded. The motion passed.

Amy moved that Articles 9, 10 and 12 be funded by “raise and appropriate” monies. Rich seconded. Motion passed.

Rich Filoramo moved that Articles 9 – 18 be recommended. The motion was seconded and passed.

8. Operating Budget: Amy moved that Line Item #57 have a footnote that the amount is not from Town funds. Lynn seconded. Motion passed.
9. The "Debt Management Policy" produced by Joe Markarian was reviewed. In Section C, #1, insert "school capital assessments" before the words "debt exclusions". #C-4 should be deleted. In #6, insert the word "taxable" before "property". The Select Board voted to approve these policies.
10. The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Smith, adopted for the Select Board by Peg Dean

Documents reviewed:

Free Cash and Stabilization policies

ATM 2017 Articles

FY 2018 Budget Worksheet

Debt Management Policy from Joe Markarian