

CHARLEMONT Select Board and Finance Committee Meeting – CHARLEMONT TOWN HALL

April 1, 2016

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Richard Filoramo, Acting Chair.
2. The minutes of the March 18, 2016 meeting were approved and signed.
3. Wired West/MBI Update: Bob Handsaker and Trevor Mackie. There is a new Interim Director of MBI. The leadership at Wired West has also changed. Bob is on the negotiation team to try and work out the differences with MBI. Wired West wants to keep the town members more informed and involved with what is going on. Wired West is hosting a meeting tomorrow in Northampton and is hoping to have some select board members in attendance. They want to develop a unified message to send to the Governor. They have changed their business plan to specify that the individual towns will own the assets used specifically for their towns. As to whether or not Wired West should be an LLC, it was the opinion of two members that as long as the towns would own their assets, it really didn't matter if it was an LLC or not. Wired West is asking for \$1,000 from each member town to cover operating expenses. There was general consensus that an expense report needs to be submitted showing what the organization has been doing with its money, before any consideration should be given to another allocation.
4. Fire Department Budget Review: Doug Annear presented. Wants level funding except for increase in radio maintenance. Toby suggested increasing building maintenance to \$15,000, including \$10,000 for replacement windows and \$5,000 for insulation. It was agreed to postpone the Brush Truck for \$80,000, and to remove the Rescue Utility from Capital Planning. Need to look into getting used trucks from the military. The Select Board will coordinate the effort. Nozzles should be moved into the Fire Equipment Replacement account – 220-5870.
5. Memorial Park Budget: presented by Jerry DuPree and Tom Shields. The wooden bleachers at the Fairgrounds need to be replaced. Each year 8-10 boards are replaced. They are looking to purchase used aluminum bleachers as a replacement. It was suggested that perhaps a special town meeting could be called to vote on replacing at least a portion of the bleachers. They will look into the cost. More money was requested for mowing due to added areas to mow. A phone line was added to the Fairgrounds, for emergencies. It was suggested that its cost be transferred to the Emergency Management Director's account. Work is continuing on rehabbing the Exhibit Hall, so it can be used as an Emergency Operations Center. More money, perhaps up \$2,000, may be needed to complete the project.
6. Accountant's Contract Request: Justin Cole presented. At the beginning of his services to Charlemont, everything had to be processed on site, rather than at his office as the original contract stated. For the first six months, that's all he did, and did not meet with anyone. But now things have turned 180 degrees for the better. He wants to start electronic warrants, and transfer to Adobe. A weekly pickup is done. His supply budget includes mailings to vendors, etc. Justin will assist in creating an article for a Highway Special Purpose fund - \$40,000.
7. Other agenda items were postponed to future meetings: Re-purposing Federal Surplus, Health Insurance Costs for Town Employees, Budgeting Property and Casualty Insurance, and Status update on bridges.
8. Next meeting will be Saturday, April 16, 2016.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Smith

Documents distributed:

- Wired West/Broadband notes
- FY 2017 Budget Worksheet
- Long Range Planning Capital Expenses Worksheet
- Budget requests from Fire, Memorial Park, Accountant, and Board of Selectmen Departments
- Select Board Article on Mountain Road Bridge

This document is a draft until approved and signed by the Select Board