

CHARLEMONT FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING – CHARLEMONT TOWN HALL

(Joint Meeting with Charlemont Board of Selectmen)

January 21, 2017

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:31 am by the Chair, Rich Filoramo.
2. The minutes from the December 2, 2016 meeting were approved.
3. Amy Wales mentioned that we cannot spend more next year than this year, because we have low free cash, and we are about at our levy limit.
4. Bob Handsaker appeared to give an update on Broadband. He said he would like to have an option to present to the Annual Town Meeting. We are ready to have our pole survey done – just waiting for MBI. But it seems that MBI wants a money commitment from the Town. Amy moved that the Town say it has 40% “take rate” of interested customers. The motion was seconded and passed. MBI will issue an RFP saying it will now assist the towns in the build-out. The listed pole count for Charlemont by MBI is way low: it should be 1,800 poles, but they list 1,200. And they are sticking with their count, even though it was their error. We will check with our legislators on this issue. Beth will try to schedule a meeting.
5. Recreation Tax: questions were asked by the Senate at the last minute about its legality. Paul Mark will refile the bill. More lobbying is needed. We should invite the DOR out here to meet with us. Could be a misunderstanding. Related to the tax is our ambulance situation. Is the renewal of our license really a problem? It appears that as long as an inspection of MedCare is okay, there should be no need to worry about our license. It was suggested to reach out to the Shelburne Falls Ambulance. Beth will talk with its SelectBoards.
6. Budget Plan Schedule: Finance Committee will meet:
 - a. February 11, 2017 – Highway and Police Departments
 - b. February 18, 2017 – Fire and Ambulance
7. Long Term Financial Goals: Carlene and Justin (Accountant) are pulling together information to present to the SelectBoard and Finance Committee either on February 11 or 18.
8. Budget clean-up items: hold for Justin.
9. Received budget request from Hawlemont Regional School District. It shows a 5% increase, but does not include everything, such as pre-school.
10. Received information on Health Insurance for Town employees. Towns pays 75% and employees pay 25%. The Town will pay \$6,516.50/month for its employees.
11. Amy moved to approve the Reserve Fund Transfer of \$800.33 to cover the deficits for account 01-433-5690. The motion was seconded and passed.
12. The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Smith

Documents reviewed:

Reserve Fund Transfer Request

Health Insurance Update

Hawlemont Regional School District Budget

Letter from Mass. Public Health to Dana Johnson, dated October 4, 2005, re: waiver of
ambulance staffing requirements

Broadband Updates

This document is a draft until approved by the Finance Committee.