

CHARLEMONT FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING – CHARLEMONT TOWN HALL

(Joint Meeting with Charlemont SelectBoard)

February 23, 2019

Present: Finance Committee – Rich Filoramo, Amy Wales, Lynn Hathaway, Toby Gould, Ron Smith;
SelectBoard - Sarah Reynolds, Marguerite Willis

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:06 a.m. by the Chair, Rich Filoramo.
2. Review of the minutes from the February 9, 2019 meeting were postponed to a later time.
3. The Committees reviewed Draft 4 of the FY 2020 Budget Worksheet.
 - a. There were questions on the “Pensions and Insurance” section. Marguerite Willis will note corrections and take care of it.
 - b. Questions on “Conversion Costs” for Assessors. Carlene will appear later at this meeting to discuss.
 - c. Invite the Business Manager for the Mohawk Regional School District to the next meeting.
4. Dennis Annear appeared to discuss the Fire Department/Emergency Management budgets.
 - a. The Emergency Management expense is up to \$2,000 from last year’s \$1,500.
 - b. Fire Department budget: no increase. It was suggested to look at what comparable towns are paying firefighters for call outs, and their base salaries. But it was also mentioned that we need to discuss three groups – fire, police and Ambulance - when it comes to these items as well as training costs. Toby Gould volunteered to work with Sarah Reynolds to lead a group discussion on this, because we need this info for our next budget proposal.
5. Dana Johnson appeared to discuss the Ambulance budget.
 - a. He said a new reporting system is in the works that will require a new computer. To comply with new regulations the cost could be \$2,000 more. Perhaps Line #47 should be increased?
 - b. Dana proposed an “On-call” budget of \$40,000. During discussion it was stated that we cannot afford this amount right now. Perhaps we should study this for all departments that have members on-call.
 - c. Dana stated that the EMT’s made 91.5 % of their calls last year. They made 164 calls per year on average.
6. Jared Bellows appeared to discuss the Police Department budget.
 - a. No increase in budget except for salaries. Many of his officers have “donated” their time spent in training.
 - b. The Department had 1,200 calls last year – more than Shelburne Falls and Buckland, due to the summertime influx. He stated we may need to increase the number of officers on duty on weekends.
 - c. The regulations for Cannabis control and arrest are very confusing. There is no case law. It’s up in the air as to what we can do when someone is suspected of being under the influence.

- d. The recreation companies should be asked to increase their donations used to help offset the cost of police patrols. The letter asking for donations has in the past come from the Police Department. But it was decided that from now on the letter should come from the SelectBoard.
7. Assessors: Carlene Hayden and a Board Member appeared to discuss the Assessor's budget. They were in the process of converting their system to "Tyler", and are now in a beta test mode. However, after further review, it was decided to instead go with the "Patriot" system, which is used by most cities and towns. They need to write a withdrawal letter from Tyler, and will consult with Town Counsel for the wording. But money is now needed to convert to the Patriot system. They will use this year's conversion money to convert to Patriot, instead of Tyler. If there is an overage in cost, they will use the "Technology" budget to cover, which could be around \$1,600. In next year's budget request, the "Conversion Cost" line should be changed to \$4,000.
8. The next Joint Meeting was scheduled for Friday, March 8, 2019, at 8:00 a.m.
9. The minutes of the February 9, 2019 meeting were reviewed and approved.
10. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Smith

Documents reviewed:

FY 2020 Budget Worksheet – 4th Draft

Budget Worksheets for the Fire, Ambulance, and Police Departments

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