

Charlemont Town Hall

Minutes of the Finance Committee and SelectBoard Joint Meeting

February 1, 2020

Present: Amy Wales, Rich Filoramo, Lynn Hathaway, Ron Smith, Marguerite Willis, Jay Healy and Sarah Reynolds.

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Sarah Reynolds.
2. Amy Wales gave an update about what is happening with Broadband. The State has made available \$438,000 to cover overages for “make ready” preparations. The Town appears to be on budget. They are still working on the best way to string the cable over the “Longbridge” and a couple of other places. We didn’t get the “Reconnect Grant” from the USDA. Jay Healy said there may be other grant possibilities.
3. Gordon Hathaway appeared to discuss the Highway budget. He said the Equipment Maintenance budget increased due to the amount of old equipment being used. We continue to have a good relationship with Hawley on the sharing of equipment. In the future, as equipment becomes more modernized, more jobs will need to be shipped out for maintenance/repair.
As a side, Amy suggested that the SelectBoard take up salaries at an earlier time.
4. Jared Bellows appeared to discuss the Police Department budget. He said the amount of paperwork and emails has increased. The Training hours have increased, and the salaries will need to increase. Telephone Services had been taken out of other accounts to pay for it. It was suggested to decrease “Contracted Services” by \$1,000. He said he hopes to get a State Grant for the River Patrol.
5. Dana Johnson appeared to discuss the Ambulance budget. \$40,000 in salaries has been added to pay for a temporary solution of paying EMT’s to be “on call”. They have been working closely with Shelburne Falls. Dana said that at some point he would like to have a “response vehicle”, so that they don’t need to use their private vehicles when responding. Radio Maintenance costs are up as new programming will be needed for the new radios that the State will purchase.
6. Dennis Annear appeared to discuss the Fire and Emergency Management budgets. New radios will be needed on the fire trucks and crew. 20 radios and programming will be needed, and there are three options:
 - a. Free option – State buys, but will not be supported by Motorola for maintenance.
 - b. \$350 radio
 - c. \$500 radio – a better radio. \$600 with programming. \$1,000 to install base station. A total of \$20,500 for the Fire Department.

There will be an increase in salaries as he wants to add a night shift, and with collaboration with Ambulance, have two night shifts a week.

He said he is applying for a grant for a new fire truck. He is waiting for a grant for the new generator.

7. The next Joint Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, February 22, at 8:30 a.m. On the agenda will be the Capital Planning Committee and Schools.
8. The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Smith

Documents viewed:

Draft of Omnibus Budget

Budget requests from Ambulance, Emergency Management, Fire, Highway and Police

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