

Charlemont Town Hall

Minutes of the Finance Committee and SelectBoard Joint Meeting

February 22, 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 8:32 a.m. by Sarah Reynolds.
2. David Fierro, the Town Accountant, appeared. He is also serving the Towns of Rowe and Monroe, with Rowe being the lead town for his retirement, Medicare costs, etc. There needs to be a formalized agreement among the three towns for sharing his costs. Marguerite will talk with Rowe about making such an agreement. For the Special and Revenue Accounts, Amy suggested that perhaps any surpluses should go to the Town.
3. The minutes of the Joint Meeting of February 1, 2020 were reviewed. A motion was made and seconded to approve. The motion passed.
4. Tracy Hall appeared to report for the Capital Planning Committee. She provided an updated spreadsheet showing the departmental requests for FY2021.
 - a. It was pointed out by the SelectBoard that there needs to be an additional request of \$20,000 for Bridge Repairs.
 - b. Sarah Reynolds moved to defer the Town Hall work to FY2024. Marguerite Willis Seconded. The motion was passed by the SelectBoard.
5. The Joint Committees reviewed and discussed the latest draft of the FY2021 Omnibus Budget. It was noted that Hawlemont appeared to be asking for a 22% increase, but that is being questioned. Mohawk is asking for a 5.8% increase.
6. Representatives from the Tyler Memorial Library Trustees, including a person from Hawley, appeared to discuss the salary of the Library's Director. A handout presented compared the salaries of directors from surrounding towns, as well as showing the hours worked and their educational background. The Trustees are proposing that the Charlemont Director's salary be increased from \$16.27/hour to \$22.50/hour. They reported that library usage has increased 25% since 2017. It was noted that Hawley has been contributing \$1,000/year to the Director's salary, but there apparently is no written agreement requiring them to do so.
7. The present system supporting the Charlemont Town website is "going away"! The SelectBoard will check with Cheryl Handsaker to figure out where we should go from here.
8. Parks and Recreation wants to do an engineering study concerning rehabbing the stands at the Fair Grounds. Marguerite told them that they could meet with the CPC to request funds for the engineering study. They also want to establish a Revolving Fund, but Sarah Reynolds said they do not generate enough revenue to cover their budget.
9. Main Street in the Village is scheduled to be rebuilt this summer. The SelectBoard is looking to have water lines, up to a cost of \$20,000, put in the street while the road is being reconstructed, in order to provide for a fire suppression system and residential water in the future. Grants are available to support such projects.
10. Recreation Tax: the bill must be resubmitted to the Legislature. It was suggested to get letters of support from the affected Town businesses. Rich Filoramo will draft a letter for the businesses to sign.

11. OPEB: remove the \$5,000 for OPEB from line #42 of the FY2021 budget.
12. The next Joint Meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2020, at 8:15 a.m.
13. A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Smith

Documents viewed:

“Shared Services Proposal” from David Fierro, Town Accountant

Capital Planning Committee FY2021 Capital Requests spreadsheet

“Staffing Summary 2018” chart from Tyler Memorial Library Trustees

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