

Town of Charlemont
Joint Finance Committee and Select Board Meeting Minutes
January 17th, 2024
Town Hall and via Conference Call

Board Members Present: Jared Bellows, Lynn Hathaway, Rich Filoramo, Valentine Reid, Ron Smith, Amy Wales
Others present: Scott Sullivan, Jay Pelletier, Marguerite Willis, Sarah Reynolds, Star Atkeson

Rich Filoramo called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM.

APPOINTMENTS:

4:00- Scott Sullivan, Highway Department

- There will be an increase in HWY vehicle contractual services which covers truck mechanical work and maintenance. Scott proposed to raise the account to \$19,655.31, which was the amount spent in FY23
- There is an increase to highway winter contracted services of \$671.95, bringing it to \$8,524.29.
- Scott budgeted 8,400. gallons of diesel for the year @ \$5.00 a gallon. Diesel fuel is for Fire, Ambulance and Police.
- Scott will work on capital requests for the Capital Planning Committee due on Jan 22nd.
- Sarah will have numbers for all options including used and leased vehicles for the capital Planning Committee.
- The board spoke about the benefits of leasing: big repairs never happen with trade-ins after 5 years.

4:30 Jay Pelletier, Police Department

- Jay looked at where there was underspending and overspending and made adjustments. Overall, there is a \$200-300 increase.
- Because of the new vehicle, they can cut the vehicle maintenance line by \$1500. Jay hopes that the explorer doesn't eat that decrease. Unfortunately, the 2017 Ford Explorer is often in the garage and needs a serious tune-up if it is expected to be used in the EVOC portion of Bridge Academy. There cannot be a check engine light. It is not under warranty and has constant problems.
- Contracted Services was the other overspent line item, up from increases in the reporting systems. Jay will increase it to \$4500. The IMC reporting service had hit 2 times in one year which was why it was at \$6,400 last year. The state is no longer subsidizing the services. The cost is rising in \$500 increments.
- Training went up \$300; Supplies were down.
- The department recently lost Bob Manners. They will hire an officer. There are 5 police officers and 4 civilian traffic controllers.
- New equipment increased from \$3,500 to \$4,500.
- Rich asked about professional liability cost for each officer and asked why it went down. It is \$50. per person liability insurance. Sarah met with the insurance person and spoke about bonding today.
- Jay reminded the Board that last year he asked for one with a handshake agreement that he would get another this year. The price has already increased 20,000 on yet to be manufactured Tahoes.
- They spoke about shopping around. The price increase is the same everywhere. The cost for a 2025 Tahoe is \$79,386. It is an estimate of the increase on their end for 2025. It is the quote that will be locked in and can be used for the warrant article.
- The Board brainstormed ways to get around buying a Tahoe but there were no viable leads.
- Electric vehicles were brought up. They were tested on the EVOC course and only lasted 40 minutes.
- They will explore if leasing would allow the vehicle to be outfitted with everything they need.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

1. Cherry Sheet numbers

- There is no update on the cherry sheet yet. Sarah has last year's numbers. Unrestricted government aid is at \$208,965 and will not go up. State owned Land is up @\$200 from last year at \$28,388. Sarah spoke of bills that are being considered regarding state owned land which may change numbers, but not quickly enough for this year. There will be a meeting with Senator Markey regarding Federal Aid and Grant numbers. The Board spoke about the Fairshare allotment. There is an Aide from Springfield advocating that they not use Chpter 90 formula when calculating the Fairshare allotment.
- Marguerite Willis mentioned that there will be a cost for homeless children in the budget for the aid, there will be charges for the education.
- The Fairshare is out for Highway only.

2. Rooms, Meals, Sales Tax report

- Room and Meals taxes are increasing.
- FY24 June-August Meals tax was \$3,500. (an increase of @\$800 from FY23) Room tax was \$32,109 (an increase of @\$16,000.)
- FY24 Sep-Nov Meals tax had a \$1,586.73 increase from previous year, Rooms tax had a \$9,064.50 increase from previous year.
- Transfer Station numbers: revenue was back up from sticker sales, she will have numbers after December report for metal dumpster and other programs.
- The hauling is still what the overwhelming expense is for the transfer station. The cost for fuel and personnel is going up.
- Ambulance revenue is about the same. They don't have police numbers yet. (Gun permits and money back from speeding tickets)
- Sarah went over the new State budget cuts that affect Charlemont. BoH grants, senior center grants, Fire Department grants and resources for children were cut. Rich asked Sarah to itemize what will be affected.
- They spoke about any money back from donations from senior activities. Sarah will ask Linda.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Review first draft of FY 2025 Budget

The Boards will review the first draft at the next meeting.

2. Review/ Approve minutes from 5/17/2023

Rich Filoramo motioned to accept the Minutes from 5/17/2023 as written, Amy Wales seconded the motion. All in favor.

Amy Wales motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by Lynn Hathaway. All in favor.
Next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 31st at 4:00 Pm.

Documents viewed at meeting:

Minutes of 5/17/2023

FinComm and Select Board Agenda for January 17, 2024

HWY FY2025 Budget request

HWY increase explanation

Police FY2025 Budget request