

TOWN OF HARVARD

Finance Committee

Minutes

Meeting Date: Jan. 26th, 2011

Meeting Place: Town Hall

Members Present: Heidi Frank, Steve Colwell, Lori Granville, George McKenna, Marie Fagan

Others Present: Tim Bragan-Town Administrator

Meeting Time: 7:12 pm

Adjournment Time: 9:30 pm

Discussion and Actions

- Marie Fagan opened the meeting at 7:12 pm
- Minutes from 01/22/2011 meeting reviewed and approved.
- New Interim Fire Chief Don Hurme present to discuss budget:
Some info regarding burn permit fees. There is a state law which says that we may charge for permits, but can not exceed \$50.00 in a family dwelling. Must go through Board of Selectmen for approval. Brush burning rules made by DEP, but issued by Fire Dept.
He would like to see Fire Dept. more involved with the town ie. handling burn permits, fire education/prevention. One suggestion made is to have burn permit fees go directly to funding our SAFE program. Don warns that other Depts. may follow suit and want their fees fit into their budgets.
The Chief position is being discussed by the Board of Selectmen as to what model they want to follow ie. shared vs. part time vs. full time.
George asked Don's opinion on the Fire Depts.' condition and adequacy of equipment. Don feels it is adequate for what we have. Maintenance records are poor and he is looking into the actual maintenance itself. He recommends the purchase of a ladder truck. Organization could be better—currently there only 3 Lieutenants and 1 Deputy Chief. The fire fighters' skills are great, but a little understaffed and undermanaged.
- Parks and Recreation here to discuss budget:
They are currently down to bare bones with maintenance of fields and beach house. This is why the increase in their Line Item. The \$21,650 is for rehab of 1 to 2 fields per year before too late.
Lori asked about Parks and Rec fundraising. What are the fees they charge? How much do these bring in?

We will meet with Rich Nota from DPW, Jim Lee from P&R, Tim Bragan, and Reps from Board of Selectmen and FinCom.

- FY12 CPC Applications:
They only funded two applicants which are Town Clerk for \$27,000 and Bare Hill Pond for \$73,750.
\$25,000 goes to Support of Affordable Housing. This is the minimum they can fund.
Town Hall restoration at \$0 due to ongoing Municipality Building Committee planning.
End up retaining \$125,000 for future projects.
About 80% of their money is surcharge. Less and less from the state each year. They are anticipating 25% state match.
Conservation Commission wanted money, but not what CPC funds can be used for.
- Pond Committee here for discussion of budget:
Hydropower project/idea was consulted out to two engineers and they found that not energy efficient. Could be educational for students at best.
The renting of the harvester is of interest for some communities, but we would need a Lease Agreement b/s of potential damage to the machine. Also, other communities are also feeling the budget pinch, so how much are they willing to spend for rental of this? Is it worth it?
They will show details for FY2008 to FY2012.
Three new sites uncovered for BHP III project.
- Liaison updates from Steve regarding schools.
- Calendar for Saturday, Jan. 29th, we have Capital first, then Municipality Building Committee, then Schools.
- Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.