

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Minutes

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Time: 7:00 p.m.
MILLBURY, MASS.

Date: March 5, 2018

Present: Noonan, O'Connell, Khalife, Cofske, Kennedy, Kuphal

Absent: Kupcinkas

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Dave Marciello, Town Manager and Keith Nastasi, DPW Director were in at 7:00 p.m.

Kaye Peltier, Council on Aging, was in at 7:00 p.m.

DPW Budget

Highway Department:

Keith Nastasi: Capital is up. We have the MS4 Permit. This costs \$235,000 this year. It is the storm water permit. The cost will be about \$200,000 a year for the next 10 years after the initial amount.

Jen O'Connell: What do you get out of this?

Keith Nastasi: We would have better quality water. This is for permit fees and whatever work that needs to be done.

Jen O'Connell: What is the life expectancy of a catch basin?

Keith Nastasi: If it is in a heavily travelled road, then 5-6 years. Less travelled roads, maybe 20 or more years. The 5-year lease is up on the highway vehicles. They are not worth keeping. The wear and tear on these vehicles is extensive. We are looking for a 6-wheel dump truck with a sander. We need a new chipper. The present one is so old, it is hard to find parts to fix it. These will be Warrant Articles. Most bridges in Town are deplorable. They need immediate attention. Round Pond needs repairs. This will cost about \$550,000. The McCracken Road project is about \$215,000, to get 75% of the design done. To get to 100%, the cost is \$300,000. We need a slope mower for the Transfer Station. We have been renting one about twice a year for a cost of \$3500 each time. A new one would cost \$10,000.

Jen O'Connell: Are you re-structuring the department?

Keith Nastasi: Yes, I am trying to save money. I eliminated the Operations Manager and upgraded three positions within the department.

Antony Khalife: What is the \$25,000 for the Asa Waters oil testing?

Dave Marciello: Testing is supposed to be done yearly and hasn't been done for 4 years. We may not have to do this. If we have to do the testing, this is where it is going to go.

Steve Noonan: This should be coming out of the Asa Waters Budget.

Jen O'Connell: I agree. It should be coming from their account.

Dave Marciello: I will look into this. If it needs to come from there, I will put it there.

Keith Nastasi: I have a 1962 generator that needs to be replaced at the DPW building. This is more for the fuel pumps. Maintenance is done weekly on this. This is not an automatic generator. Someone has to physically go in and turn it on.

DPW Administration

Keith Nastasi: This is for my salary and my Head Clerk. Engineering Services are for projects that are in progress. Everything else is level funded.

Snow and Ice

Steve Noonan: How is this year's budget going?

Dave Marciello: We were over by about \$90,000 before the last storm.

Keith Nastasi: We joined a consortium so we are paying \$47 a ton instead of \$57 for the salt. This is a 3-year contract.

Street Lights

Keith Nastasi: I added \$10,000 to this because National Grid is going up on their rates.

Dave Marciello: We are inheriting some sub-divisions. This should cover this. Also, Phase I of the LED conversion has been completed.

Transfer Station

Jen O'Connell: Do you think our fees are high enough?

Keith Nastasi: No, I do not. This is a benefit for the residents. We are not going to ask for compactors for the Transfer Station. This would cause us to hire more personnel to monitor them.

Parks Maintenance and Operations

Keith Nastasi: We have three seasonal employees. The lawn mowers need repairs. I level funded the Butler Farm.

Jen O'Connell: Is this work not included in the Bark Park?

Keith Nastasi: This is what is not funded for the Park. We need a new mower. A lot of hours are on the current mower.

Dave Marciello: I did not okay funding this. I don't have the money at this time.

Sewer Enterprise

Keith Nastasi: There is a big increase in this budget. There was an upgrade on one of the pump stations. We saved \$500,000 on that.

Jen O'Connell: Are the rates going up?

Keith Nastasi: An increase is not warranted.

Steve Noonan: How much of the cost of the pump station came out of the Sewer Fund?

Keith Nastasi: All of it. Electricity rates are up and the professional consultant fees are up. There is more reporting to the DEP. The assessment from the Upper Blackstone increased by 1%. There is a \$40,000 cost to replace the F350 with a plow.

Keith Nastasi left at 8:15 p.m.

Dave Marciello discussed the new marijuana laws.

Motioned by Noonan, seconded by Cofske to accept the minutes of 2/20/18 as written. Unanimous.

Motioned by Khalife, seconded by Cofske to accept the minutes of 2/26/18 as written. Unanimous.

Jen O'Connell: The School Department reduced their budget. I asked Rick to send the yellow pages in excel. They are still at a 3.9% increase over last year.

Dave Marciello: This translates to more than what I have already given them. I cannot go any higher than the 2.51% without either asking for an override or cutting the other departments. I am 100% in favor of an override if they really need the money.

Jen O'Connell: They did say that they would explore charging fees next year. They also looked at taking out a bus route. They are not going to hire the 3 new Special Education teachers. They are reducing the professional development days. They said they would look into School Choice for next year.

Jen O'Connell: We will cancel our meeting for Monday, March 12.

Motioned by Khalife, seconded by Kennedy to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. Unanimous.

A series of handwritten signatures in blue and black ink, arranged vertically. From top to bottom: a blue signature that appears to be 'Jennifer O'Connell'; a blue signature that is partially obscured; a blue signature that appears to be 'Anthony Khalife'; a black signature that appears to be 'Stephen Noonan'; a black signature that is partially obscured; and a black signature that is partially obscured.