

**Minutes
Finance Committee
March 12, 2013
Final**

Discussion Notes 7:00pm

Chairman Peter McManus started the discussion 7:00pm. Present were,
Members: Ann Deluty
Associate: Richard Eckel
Absent: Richard Rollins, Bruce Walbridge and Christopher Sarno
Guests: Mike McLaughlin, Melissa Fournier, Craig Martin

Correspondence:

None at this time

Reserve Fund Transfer Requests:

- Reserve fund transfer request from the Fire Department for \$12,000 for Salary-CALL FF/EMT Wages
Mike spoke on the RFT; the normal budget is \$47,750.00. In need of another 3 months. Runs up over previous years, all CALL payroll. We are back up to full staff, PER DIEM is at 100% and CALL at 100%. No longer pay Per Diem to fill in. They work 12 hour shifts
- Reserve fund transfer request for Snow and ice account from the Highway Department for \$10,000 for Blizzard of 2013, spent about \$32,000.
- Reserve fund transfer request from the Veterans Services for \$1556.22 for payment to resident for March monthly benefits to be reimbursed to the town by the Veterans Department.

With no quorum present the members spoke with presenters and made no decisions.

Budget Review

Fire Department

Mike McLaughlin explained that he has;

- Added the 3% COLA on payroll
- When asked about outside services budgeted for \$14.5k and in the past not spending anywhere near that Mike explained that the money is used for the ambulance expenses. Billing is erratic. Most Fire Departments use an outside billing company that get 4% of everything they collect. Mike noted that he is concerned with the legislature. Big carriers are trying to lower what they have to pay out. There is proposed legislation that each municipality should be able to get back their cost first.
- All monies go to the treasurer. The numbers are up. Medical runs go up every year. There was a 75% total increase in revenue from billing. The billing firm was changed and we are very pleased with them.
- Health and safety is for equipment that protects the EMT's with backboards, instruments for the ambulance and CO level detectors.
- Malcolm Fitzpatrick property – The station that was designed will fit on the property. The right of way is available to Crescent St. The building committee will pursue it further. Selectmen wanted to wait until the Oversight Committee was together.
- The SABA a couple of years ago went to town meeting and appropriated funds for the radios and the SABA.
- The bottles made out of composite materials need to be replaced. The air tanks are getting old. Hoping for federal money to replace them. Should know about funding by May.
- The Radio Grant is \$215k. Would like to ask for \$50k for each of the next three years to get the radios in for \$150k, new antenna and new tower. Migrating will make it happen. Air compressor for MSBA's will be incorporated into the new building.

Mike out at 7:45pm.

Library

Melissa Fournier explained that she has;

- Changed the Children's Librarian's totals to a lower amount. The new librarian is bilingual.
- The state requirements are based on the size of the community. You must spend a percentage, 19% of their municipal budgets. As the salaries go up that number goes up. The library must reach the number per year to receive certification. If not they will no longer be part of the Minuteman Network.
- Franklin lost their certification.

Melissa out at 8:30pm

Building

Craig Martin explained that he has;

- In 2012 \$109k was budgeted. He brought in \$56k in permit fees. He is proposing to increase the plumbing fitting and wire fees \$5 per 1,000 for 20 years.
- Review of payroll- There is an assistant building inspector and outside contract if help is needed. Along with training money and supplies.
- Capital items:

Boiler - A situation developed from the school district. A boiler went down at Hale School that was unanticipated, over \$10k. The town pays for anything over \$10k. The repairs were completed while the kids were out of school. The District didn't have the funds. The contractor is waiting for payment. Craig plans on taking it to Town Meeting and explaining to the residents.

Water Treatment System - The public water supply is located in the back of the Town Building has high iron and magnesium levels 8.5 to 9. It affects the water and the taste. Consultants advised \$29k to fix it. The iron is up around 11. There is a difference in how you treat. Have proprietary systems that DEP approves. We have chosen the least expensive system. Need chlorine to balance the PH. The new system plan, DEP gave until Nov.2013 to get it done. DEP said it needs more than the previous levels.

Town Hall Assembly Area

The Town Hall needs carpets replaced and the first floor wood floors refinished.

Town Building

Carpets cleaned in the COA copier room carpets replaced.

Craig out at 9:00pm

Review of Minutes

None at this time

Liaison Reports

None at this time

Other Business

New Associate for FinCom, Shalini Dumka appointed by David Walrath, Town Moderator

Adjournment

Discussion ended at 9:10

Respectfully,

Elizabeth A. Tobey,
Administrative Assistant