



## Freetown Finance Committee



March 7, 2016 @ 7:00 PM

Met with the BOS to go over budgets – Brad called the meeting to order at 6:59 PM

Members Present: Brad, Paul, Kent, Bob, Joel, George

Paul Sadeck called the BOS meeting to reconvene at 7:00 PM

The minutes from the last meeting were passed out and Brad asked for a motion to accept. Paul stated that a change needed to be made on page two: “alarming” be changed to something else. It was decided that it would be changed to “more review required”. Kent then made a motion to accept the minutes with the change. This was seconded by Paul and everyone was in favor.

1 – Cemetery Budget: A bid process is needed for mowing, care, and tree cutting of Assonet Cemetery as Richard Brown was doing it on a voluntary basis and he is no longer able to do it. The Highway Department may be able to complete the process now (suggestion by Lisa) vs hiring outside contractors unless they are unable to handle the extra work. Chuck said that his team would be able to complete at the expense of other jobs not being done and his department would be pushed to the limit. There are now seven (7) cemeteries in town. Currently there are 2-3 highway staff spending 5-6 hours mowing for the cemeteries. Richard Brown spends close to 30 hours a week caring for the Assonet Cemetery. They are possibly going to put Teddy on it, but they can't send him out alone as there is no way to contact him in the case of an emergency. They also want to do mapping to stop duplicate sales of plots which comes at a cost of \$5,000.00. The process is on-going and will continue for a few more years, completion is expected in 2018.

Paul Sadeck approved the request and Lee agreed to it.

Paul Denault stated that they are asking for a 95% increase in two years, how are they justifying this increase. Mike said that now they are required to carry insurance which raised the price. Plus there have been many corrections during the mapping process: markers in wrong places, plots being sold twice, and it needs to be properly surveyed. At this point, Highway Department will mow Assonet Burial.

**Motion made to approve by Joel, seconded by Kent, 4 for and 2 abstains. Approved.**

2 – Library Budget: Want to open a 10-hour position to open the Hathaway Library on Wednesdays and coverage at the White Library. They lost a 20-hour person in 2007 with the budget cuts and would now like to replace that position with a 10-hour position. There are 4-5 times a year that they need to close the Library due to illnesses. Staffing currently is one on Saturday, two during the day, and one at night.



## **Freetown Finance Committee**

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Paul Sadeck wanted to know the hiring process – there would be internal posting, external posting in local papers, posting on the Town Website; candidates would be chosen and meet with the Trustees; an interview would be scheduled; and lastly an offer would be extended.

**Motion to approve was made by Paul, seconded by Bob – unanimous.**

3 – Town Treasurer: Currently an interim working 19 hours per week. The plan is to have someone in place by the end of April to work with him so he can be ready to take over in July. This would be a place marker to set up a central office for all departments; water, sewer, fees, etc. Should budget for a full-time Treasurer/Collector. Ideal would be 2 in Collector's Office and 1 in the Treasurer's Office.

**Motion to put his on HOLD was made by Bob, seconded by George – unanimous.**

4 – Veteran's Rep: Looking for a \$7,000 raise stating the Freetown is below market for pay ray. Paul Sadeck said that you are serving less (20 previous, now 16) but you want more money. Rep stated he has no office, no support, and no secretary. He has put on 1800 miles since he took over and area full-time Veteran's Reps are getting \$40,000 per year where he is currently at \$11,000.00. Once a client is set up, what is your next steps? He has to maintain records, bring papers to Boston, warrant for payment, system is only available on first of month, has to process claims, visit/tend cemeteries, cover qualifications, other duties, respond to clients' other needs, discern the person and what issues they are having, medical issues they have, do they have a mortgage or pay rent, help with taxes, need transportation, oil assistance, help with co-pay, - most are veteran widows.

Paul Sadeck stated with clients down he can't justify a \$7,000 raise but would increase it to \$11,500. Lee agreed with Paul.

**Motion to accept the \$11,500 was made by Kent, seconded by Joel – unanimous.**

5 – ACO: Would like to go to 32 hours per week, normally works more than her 28 hours. Currently she has 40 plus kennels, 32 farms, and 14 private. She is certified, educated, runs rabies clinics, spay/neuter clinics, manages a donation account, and on call 24/7. There is an agreement with Lakeville and Berkley to assist, there is a cat issue that needs organizing and planning, and there needs to be an emergency exit plan for animals put in place.

BOS approved.

**Motion to approve made by Joel, seconded by Kent, 5 for and 1 abstain. Approved.**

*BOS adjourned 8:17*

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## **Freetown Finance Committee**

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Suggestion for a Town Administrator or Manager.

Wednesday, March 9, 2016 at 6:00 meeting with BOS to cover Police, Fire, and Communications.

Paul questioned the \$500 highlighted for the Historical Budget.

Brad will set up more meetings to go over the budget in separate meetings to cover concerns.

Joel made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kent - unanimous.

Meeting adjourned 8:26 PM

Respectfully submitted

Lois Amaral

Finance Committee Clerk

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