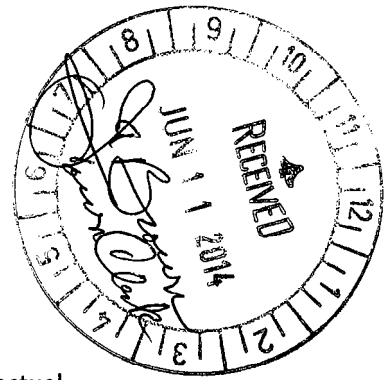


Finance Committee Meeting
Monday, March 24, 2014 @ 7:00 PM



Brad called the meeting to order at 7:47.

No quorum if anything needs to be voted on.

Planning Board: There is only one jump in the budget which is salary and is contractual.

There were no issues.

Request was put in for legal stipend for bills. The policy is that the bills go to the Town Administrator so that records could be kept so it doesn't need to be in the budget. Falls under legal umbrella.

Water/Sewer Department: There was a 7% reduction for the sewer department.

The water department came in even.

Board of Registrars: A \$1.00 increase was given to the registrars, wardens, clerks and postage was up.

There are three (3) scheduled elections, one (1) down meeting, two (2) special town meetings that are currently scheduled.

May need to transfer funds due to the Dave Sullivan election in Precinct 1, no bills have yet been received. Waiting on coding invoice and payroll.

There is an election reform that is going from the Senate to the House that has not been cleared up. They are looking to have the polls open ten (10) days prior to the polls being open, including Saturdays and Sundays. Not sure if the state would be funding this as extra personnel would be necessary, plus Sunday premium pay. Where would it be held as we have the polls at the elementary school. Brad suggested a trailer. To be discussed at a later date.

Town Clerk: Budget amended for \$65.00 as it didn't include an increase in union dues of 0.5%.

\$700.00 longevity for Diane was not necessary as she will be retiring. \$425.00 longevity for Jackie and 2% increase keeping in line with the union. Looking for uniform rates between non-union and elected personnel. Town clerk is still about \$5,000 under the local areas for a town our size.

When Diane retires, Jackie would like to hire someone as a Senior Clerk and have them learn the job for 2-3 years and then promote to Assistant Town Clerk. There is a lot to learn and it is not feasible to pay someone that doesn't know the job.

Paul said the Board of Selectman will look at elected officials.

Dues and memberships which is over \$45.00 moves to meetings and seminars.

Tax Collector & Treasurer: Level funding except for contractual increases (2%).

Secretary is down from last year.

Assistant is up 9% . (5% for first year, 5% for second year)

Tax title foreclosures: legal fees include advertising. Still doing subsequents for 2006, 2009, 2011, 2012, and 2013. Would like to add \$1,000 to budget line to catch up on these.

Debt and Interest on long-term loan: Freetown Elementary and flood loan was refinanced to a 10 year loan at a lower interest rate for a savings but at a higher yearly payment (\$50,000 difference).

Unemployment Compensation: budget is for \$30,000. Lisa motioned to drop to \$20,000.

Health Insurance: suggested budget is for 7%. Employee contribution amount and Medex were not factored in. 1.5% premium showing, 1.2% is in budget including budget and employee contribution. Stipend for those that are not using the insurance.

Life Insurance: budget is based on this year's expenses.

Medicare: down \$5,000, moving to new plan. Town Counsel is looking at the Medicare reform act that may be costly. There is a penalty for eligible candidates for Medicare that did not sign up for it when they should have. One former employee goes back 13 years. It is possible that 16 may be penalized by social security that the town may need to reimburse. Eligible candidates have three (3) months before to three (3) months after their 65th birthday to register for Medicare. Each month that they don't, they will be penalized which the town is responsible for. All eligible candidates have filed appeals, but we have not heard from any of them at this point. Board of Selectman and Town Administrator will get with Town Counsel to discern the process and obligations.

Assessor: There is an 0.5% increase for salaries.

Currently in second year of contract so it will be re-evaluated this year.

Cranberry bogs being used for solar panels changes to commercial property vs. agricultural property. Only the portion that is solar panels will be taxed commercial.

Cyclical program is working good.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM