

Finance Committee Meeting

Monday, April 28, 2014 @ 6:30 PM

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM

Lisa said she would go down the list.

Board of Selectmen - Hold

Town Administrator

Finance Committee

Reserve

Town Accountant - Hold - will change, contractual increase

Audit

Assessor - Hold - same purpose, listed in the articles for Town Meeting

Town Treasurer/Collector - Hold

Legal Fees

Management IT - Hold

Tax, Title, Foreclosure

Town Clerk - Hold

Primary and Elections

Registration

Conservation - Hold - funding, needs to be re-visited

Planning Board

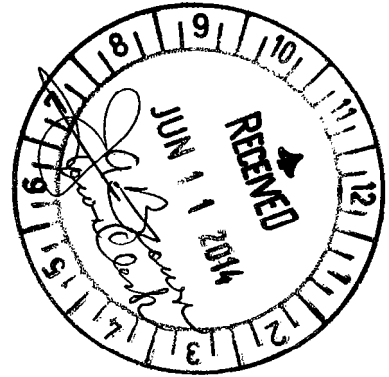
Zoning Board

Soil Board - Hold - needs discussion

Public Buildings and Maintenance

Property Insurance - Hold

Town Reports



BE Pina

Police - Hold

Communications - review, down to \$258,553

Fire - This year has training, next year will go down

Building

Gas

Plumbing

Weights and Measures

Electric - Hold

Civil Defense

Animal Control

Forestry - Hold

Harbor Master

School Committee Stipend

Freetown/Lakeville Regional School - Hold

Bristol Agricultural - Hold

Old Colony RVHS - Hold

Highway and Streets - Hold

Snow and Ice

Street Lights

Trash/Disposal

Transfer Station - Hold

Cemetery - Hold

Health Inspector - Hold

Council on Aging - Hold

Veterans Agent

Memorial and Veteran's Days

Library - Hold

Arts/Culture

Historical Committee

Return Note

Interest on Long Term Debt

Assessment

Bristol County Assessors

Other Assessors

Retirement/Pension Contributions

Workers' Comp

Unemployment - Hold

Health Insurance

Life and Medicare

Capital Equipment - Hold

Capital Property - Hold

Court Judgments

Liability Insurance - \$40,000 for Workers' Comp

Gas and Diesel - drop \$138

Sewer

Now we will discuss the holds. The first one is:

Board of Selectmen - By-law employees have an article in place to adjust their pays as there is no increase. Elected officials have an adjusted dollar amount. Would like to apply increase to those in the category to reflect what the others get. Since 2002 the BOS has not gotten a raise, would like to include a \$500 increase. If the article passes the funds need to be there. If the article is rejected the monies will go to the general fund. This would require funding of \$5961. Lisa also stated the budget should be reduced by \$2000 for office supplies since technology will be in place supplies can be cut.

Town Accountant - \$70,858, bottom line budget is \$107,536

Assessors - same reason as BOS, article for increase

Town Treasurer - 2% increase - [REDACTED] remains

Management IT - warrant article to replace and install equipment. In need of upgrades, Web Design, software support fees. Outlook is in bad shape and need repair/upgrade. The server acts up in all offices. With the new equipment there will be a warranty in place. It will cover 16 licenses for Town Hall and other offices, IT consultant for \$7000, Web pay fees, firewall enhancement fee. Should we install a fee per user? Need a plan. How many offices need and what do they need. New hardware is needed.

Janice-warrant article worked into budget line to replace equipment line, becomes budget item every year. Pull warrant article (\$20,000) and add to \$8,000 and reduce capital budget by \$20,000 which will reduce the capital equipment plan to \$0. IT consultant to all areas to plan for next year.

Library windows being replaced next month so doesn't need to be included.

Town Clerk - same reason as BOS, article for increase

Conservation Commission - budget for \$5,000 yearly, transfer for \$7300, requesting \$10,000. Every year they have 2-3 transfer requests, there are no transfers until the budget has been depleted. Brad requested it be raised to \$8,000. The vote for the Finance Committee is to raise \$10,000.

Soil - postage and advertising in past, their budget went over, increase in rate and hours

Property Insurance - same reason as BOS, article for increase

Police - explain to BOS and FinCom the 365 vs. 366 days (52 weeks plus 1 or 2 days). It gets adjusted at year end and needed to be approved. The state mandates July 1 - June 31 which may add 1 or 2 days to the fiscal budget. There was an error in Carlton's salary (charged for a week instead of day). Uniforms for all officers is up to \$20,000 - ballistic vests need to be purchased every five years. Education incentive - an officer has now qualified for an increase.

Communications - \$258553, Okay

Electric - Solar farms

Forestry - warrant article for \$40,000, reduce budget, rental and lease is \$5,000 less. Warrant article is to remove dead trees - does it include pay for tree warden and police. Last year was \$5104, this year \$16,604 bottom line - [REDACTED] remains.

We will come back to the schools.

Highway - inventory of equipment, contractual increases for current employees and a new hire.

Transfer Station - step increase paid retroactive, paid out in fiscal year 2014.

Cemetery - brush cutter, driveway repairs.

Health Inspections - does not utilize extra person all the time, shared with Building Department.

Council on Aging - same reason as BOS, article for increase

Library - same reason as BOS, article for increase

Unemployment - same reason as BOS, article for increase

Capital Equipment - replacement of vehicles. Decided not to replace pick-up but was never reduced from the budget. New 2014 Ford was purchased with this year's budget. Fire department ambulance is through fiscal year '16, pumper through fiscal year '19 for \$108,379. Highway department has 2010 loader, 2012 sweeper through fiscal year '15, 2014 Ford pick-up through fiscal year '16. Requested by BOS to have an inventory of the Highway department vehicles: 5 dump trucks (1 is no good), '94 GMC, '96 GMC, '12 Ford 450, '11 Ford pick-up, '14 Ford pick-up. All vehicles are capable of plowing except the '14 Ford which will be. Will rescind the mower that was issued by the FYAA. Last year purchased catch basin. There are 1,124 catch basins to clean @ \$7.00/hr and should be cleaned 2 times per/year.

Police department has 4 cruisers that are leased. Their inventory includes: 3 unmarked cruisers, 2 Humvees, 9 marked cruisers. Request for 2 cruisers for fiscal year '15 to maintain the revolving 6 leases contracted through state. New cruiser costs between \$38-39,000 financed @ 6% for three years. Needs to be revisited.

Town Meeting warrant articles:

Need 1 - 2 weeks to estimate the library windows. Needs to go before the Historical Committee.

Article - Fire department - \$1395 volunteer fire grant

Article - Non monetary - number change - transfer \$300 from cemetery line item (free cash to veterans grave

Article - \$100,000 for OPED fund

Article - \$35,424.59 pay for this fiscal year

Annual Meeting warrant articles:

Article - pay increases for Moderator, Town Clerk, Board of Assessors, Tree Warden, Highway Surveyor, Board of Selectmen, Council on Aging, Library, Property Insurance, Unemployment, equal to 1.75%.
School District stipend

Article - Full-time Board of Health personnel

Article - change COA and dog officer by-law

Article - change classification of longevity, includes 2 people that have not had a chart change, 2 full-time elected and any non-union

Article - \$2,000 for burglar alarm

Article - \$400 FEMA grant

Article - Fire and Police equipment \$10,000 (\$9,988.57) for repeater on fire tower, took one year to get state approval

Article - \$13,100 for radios, pagers, chargers

Article - dog licensing

Article - \$10,000 for COA fuel assistance, last year state funding ran out and COA purchased fuel for families to stay in their homes, would have to meet established criteria

Article - \$300 for veterans' fees at cemetery

Article - install and fund street light at Chipaway and Bullock Roads, does it have to be an article, yes it was petitioned

Article - protect by-laws and zoning

Article - amend section 5

Article - \$45,000 for repair and maintenance of town vehicles and buildings \$47,550.00 total, \$65,395 in capital improvements, remove article, listed in capital property

Article - aggregate electric, increase in electric bills is burden on homeowners

Article - \$2,000 for cemetery

Article - \$30,000 recertification

Article - \$40,000 tree removal, what are the needs

Article - \$2,000 Women's Center in New Bedford

Article - \$455 pest control

Article - treasurer, borrow with board approval , do we still need

Article - \$3,000 revolving account

Article - \$3,000 fireworks

Article - \$5,000 boat ramp

Article - Water Commission

Article (not located) - \$2,000 brush removal

Article (not located) - \$400 Fire department for FEMA, listed already

Wednesday meeting with the Lakeville School Department for anyone interested in attending. Lakeville is looking to put \$1.537 over net spending making our share \$1.072. This forces us to pay more than the per student fee. Brings it to \$460,000 more from Freetown and \$460,000 less for Lakeville. State goes by aggregate wealth. Town vote to cap budget which is recommended by BOS. If we go to a joint town meeting we will lose. Can we get an outside company to review our issue. Check with Mark Rich to look at law and what the formula is.

If one town rejects it goes back to the school committee and is looked at again. It is then returned to the towns for another vote. Reach out to Reps to change formula. Make comparisons on Lakeville and Freetown reports.

Need a 5-year plan for schools like requested for the rest of the town.

Brad adjourned meeting.

10:24 PM
