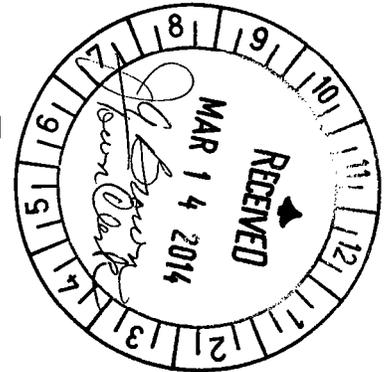


Finance Committee Meeting

Monday, February 24, 2014 @ 7:00 PM



Brad called the meeting to order at 7:12.

Don't have a minimum to vote to on the transfer requests.

Philip arrived at 7:15 so now have voting powers.

Brad passed out the minutes from the last meeting for be voted on. Paul made a motion to accept the meeting minutes, Tim seconded - passed.

Brad read the transfer requests from the Building Department for electric, gas and plumbing, and from the COA for a part-time person to fill the slot vacated by a volunteer senior citizen.

- Transfer funds in the amount of \$3,000 to the plumbing account
- Transfer funds in the amount of \$4,599 to the electric account
- Transfer funds in the amount of \$2,920 to the gas account
- Transfer funds in the amount of \$4,00 to the Council on Aging

Mary answered on the request for plumbing: \$3,000 (currently has \$1945)

Each budget was generated using LY prices which have skyrocketed. MA has put new regulations into effect requiring more inspections at \$35.00 per inspection. No monies are for payroll or vendors. Just the mandated requirements. If projected spending is over inflated, the remainder of the monies goes into the general fund.

LY's permits were listed in one department (Building) and TY they have been broken down by each individual department. Currently we are 100 permits over LY. Plumbing permits now require 4 inspections.

Philip made a motion to accept the transfer, seconded by Paul - passed.

Mary answered on the request for electric: \$4,599 (currently -\$650.00)

Mary answered on the request for gas: \$2,920 (currently -\$50.00)

Paul asked if the reason was the same as the plumbing and it is the same for all three accounts.

As the fees go up, the BOS need to make adjustments to cover the cost of the inspector's pay. Other towns have changed and we have not. Still using pricing from 2003.

Request is for a floater position to fill the 16 hours per week that a senior citizen donated time to the COA to help bag food and other tasks. The want to fill the 16 hours with a paid position. The budget for LY was bottom line. They want to fill the position at year-end (May/June). Paul had questions about

FinCom approving hiring. Brad tabled the request until the BOS returned as they had removed themselves to attend an executive session.

Lay-over from 7:12 to 8:07

Upon the return of the BOS, Brad expressed the FinCom's concern of creating a position at the COA when in the past it was being done on a volunteer basis. Lisa stated that we could no longer depend on the seniors to do the work. It was unfair to them and to the COA.

Philip made a motion to accept the request, seconded by Paul - passed.

Building Department

\$4850 to cover vacations and special inspections, salary for the clerk which is shared by the Building Department and the Health Department.

\$1000 increase for office supplies.

\$1800 for meetings. Mary attends a minimum of 1 meeting per month at a cost of \$60/meeting, and attends seminars at a cost of \$250-300/ea.

\$200 for postage and printing.

Gas: increase is due to the new MA regulations and inspection requirements. Also, it states in the Town By-Laws that employees will be paid mileage for their personal vehicles at the state rate which is currently \$0.565. (Article 10; Section F-1)

Plumbing and gas permits are \$35/ea whereas electric is \$25/ea. The fees don't cover the cost for the inspections.

Electric: increase the permit cost \$10/ea to coincide with the gas and plumbing permits. The increase from \$4800 to \$12,000 is to cover the costs of the inspections requirements. TY we are 100 permits over LY with each requiring more inspections.

Health Department

Trash: new contract needs to be acquired. The bags have been trimmed back as more trash is being recycled. The secretary does more for the transfer station.

Transfer station: listed new line items, but just arranged the old budget which is still at \$15,000, broke it down to \$10,000/\$2,000/\$3,000. Salary is the only change in the budget which are contractual raises.

~~The part-time employee stayed the same and there was a step change that didn't get adjusted with a~~
cost of living(\$13,800 - 16,000). There is no budget for electric, was town building and charged to the Town Hall. The 2014/2015 budget was done with line items - \$3500 for heat was actually for machine fuel which changed to \$2800 other. Other services was \$15,000 - \$10,000 was kept there and \$5000 was moved to repairs.

Building inspection - LY there wasn't a budget for health. Water tests, assistant salary. Lab analysis for the town beach - \$1300. Wireless phones - there weren't any, Paul uses his own cell.

Richard stated that emergency coalition can get free cell service through Sprint. Paul stated that the service is not compatible to this area as there are many spots where there is no service and Verizon is a better choice. Would like to slate \$1200 for wireless service.

Paul S stated that Verizon offers government service for \$50/mo which includes usage of 400 minutes. If the service is pooled, it should be sufficient as some do not use a lot of minutes.

It was asked if they could use walkies instead - but they would not be able to access email on the road or receive text messages to complete jobs. The best and most efficient way is to use smart phones.

Would like the addition of a clerk - \$18,000 based on a part-time salary of \$17,972 to be utilized by the Health Department and the Transfer Station.

Janice

#135 - Salary remains the same as it needs to re-negotiated (contract is up as of 6-30) sometime before it expires.

#136 - Audit will remain the same as LY. RFP is due NY. Requested to see it can be completed TY. Janice will see if it can be done.

Next meetings 3-10 and 3-24.

Paul motioned to adjourn, Philip seconded - meeting adjourned 9:17 PM
