

Accepted
4/16/13

Board of Selectmen/Finance Committee Meeting

March 20, 2013

Jean Fox – Board of Selectman, Chair, - called meeting to order at 6:30

Library

Dorothy reported. Jean stated budget was very straight forward and in order and she had no questions. She asked if anyone else had questions. No questions from FiComm. Dorothy was dismissed.

Veteran's Affairs

Dan reported that 75% of his budget is reimbursable. His client list grew from 17 to 19 clients, lost 2 in January due to deaths, 1 was put off due to eligibility, and he still has 1 widow on the books from 12-27 as she is still receiving medical bills. She will remain active at this time. As of 3-8 he uses 9800/mo, but in April it will be 10,000/mo. The 500 fuel assistance which is reimbursable will expire 3-31 as Citizens for Citizens runs from November to the end of March.

Dan's main concern is the timing of the payouts. He has just gotten reimbursed for this quarter for last year.

Questions:

Paul asked what the increase of 5000 in service was for – Dan responded that his report was revised. He said he put in for the Lakeville position which pays 16+/hr for 15 hrs and there are only 2 clients. He at this time is at 10 hrs entry level salary.

Bob asked how many hours does he put in including updating information to MassHealth – Dan responded it can be any number of hours per week-one week between 40 & 45-the next week could be just 6 or 7.

Paul asked how he was getting paid – Dan responded that he receives a stipend of 11,000/yr.

Paul D asked of the BOS are we just asking questions now and again later or are we just gathering all the answers now – Jean stated that we would be gathering information now and would be having a BOS meeting to compile all the figures to present.

Lee asked how Dan was paying for his gas – Dan responded that it comes out of his stipend. He did have to go to Leominster and would like to add that expense.

Richard asked if he is within his budget – Dan responded yes. He also added that he is all set for memorial day with flags and wreaths as he watches for 2-for sales and orders when they are buy one-get one free.

Assessors

Karen's only increase was 945 for revals.

No questions

Treasurer/Insurance

Anita reported health was up 2.9%, salary remained the same as 1000 was cut out.

Questions:

Richard asked if the only increase was contractual – Anita responded yes.

Paul asked why there was a difference from 39,000 to 33,000 – Anita responded that the prior budget had payments for a printer/copier and that bill has now been paid. Janice said that the budget is the same as 6500 was moved from treasurer to tax title dept 158.

Bob asked which number was correct as he had 3 numbers listed on his sheet (165,891; 171,537; 174,463) – Janice responded that the 174 number was the correct number which is the total of the 6500 in dept 158 and the state requirement of 167,963.

Paul asked if it was a separate item before – Janice responded that it was coming out of purchase of service.

Janice stated that the budget had been revised to reflect the 2.9% increase so the 1285 plus the 2.9% is what is in the revised budget and she would get new copies to everyone.

BC return went down as school is no longer on assessment as they are now regionalized.

No one on unemployment so that went down from 50,000.

Bottom line benefit is 2,196,843

Richard talked about the 100,000 bridge debt – Unibank has restructured FES and will save the town 149,000 over a 10-yr period with a combined payment this year of 10,000 and 89,000 for 10 yrs.

Debt exclusion never went to town vote.

Elections

Jackie reported that there were no changes in salary. She has a service contract for the new machine which was free for 2 years. Now the contract is 1600 per quarter showing 6000.

Questions:

Parking arrangements need to be taken care of incase of FYY having a game on election days. Teachers will park in the front lot to give voters the back lot. Jackie will let the custodian know when elections are

Brad asked if she spoke with Senator Rogers on funding for April/June – Jackie stated as of now she is slated for 1 annual, 2 town, and 1 election – the savings are minimal as they would use the savings in added payroll, supplies.

Lisa asked about the street listings – Jackie said there is no change in price, she just sends them out to the chairman of boards. They are public record just for the town clerk. She also stated that no one is allowed to give out any information on residents, but they can come to her and get the information that is not supposed to be released as it is public record. She feels that this will be stopped in the future due to the privacy act.

Jackie stated that her expenses a little over as she has depleted her supplies from past years and needed to replenish.

Clerk

Jackie stated the only increases are contractual obligations. The compensation for the clerk position under Article 2 puts the assistance at 80 cents below her and when setting up compensation that distance should be maintained or increased. The salary is 96% of the budget.

She stated that union negotiations instituted a 3.5% increase which she put in her budget. Discussion then took place on the increase being over a 3-yr period and it was suggested that they look over the union agreement again and the increases will be adjusted accordingly.

Council on Aging

Barbara stated that the cost of the van went up, the copy machine is 12+ years old and the other one can no longer be repaired. We now have to pay the school 270 to do the printing. Suggested she speak with Paul Bourgouis for a contract for printing, can usually get 1000 pages/mo, they provide the printer and you equip the supplies. Barbara said that would be okay if the printer used toner and not cartridges.

Lisa suggested that she look over the mailing list as she herself received a mailing and is not a senior.

Van service costs were up, but the payroll was down.

Lisa asked of Janice where the printing costs were coming from – Janice responded that they should come from capital equipment vs the budget. 267 was paid to the school to print and post.

Accountant

Janice reported that the only change is a contract increase for the auditor for 2014 which was a 2000 increase from 25,000. She can contract it yearly at 27,000 or get a 3-yr contract for 26,000/yr. She felt that the cost was rather high as the cost has not gone down since we were problematic. Jean suggested we get some prices before we finalize.

Water/Sewer

Mike's budget was discussed. He would like to be able to run lines up Chipaway to the elementary school as they spend excess monies on purifying the water it is so bad. He would also like to run it along Slab Bridge and into Assonet, but the revenue taken in would not justify it as there are only a few houses and the other side is the forest.

He also spoke with Richard about getting his bill incorporated in with the betterment bill at the lower rate of interest of 2.5 where he is paying over 6%. He does not want to add an extra burden on the tax payers. Richard said he would look into that but did not think that it was doable as it is two different expense types.

Schools

Paul wanted to let everyone know that Lakeville had a meeting and discussed Tiers for the school increases. They developed three basic tiers:

Base: 203,810+ Freetown	Tier 1: 656,076+ Freetown	Tier 2: 1,047,683+ Freetown
284,430+ Lakeville	915,599+ Lakeville	1,462,115+ Lakeville

Scott, BOS Lakeville, stated that Lakeville could not even afford 284,000. Paul made a motion to accept the base and was seconded by Brad. There was discussion that Brad could not vote. Paul made a 2nd motion to accept the base and it was seconded by Scott. No vote. Scott made a motion for 1.2 mil but no one seconded.

Meeting adjourned 8:30 PM

Finance Committee Meeting

March 20, 2013

The finance committee meeting was never called to order.

Bob spoke about the last meeting in regards to where we stand when chairs come asking for more money. He stated that the website clearly states that you cannot come for monies unless your budget has been depleted. He feels he should have rescinded his motion because now it sets a precedence for others to come for money and that is not what the funds are for. Wages are part of the budgets.

Paul D stated that if the FiComm is not going to go by policy he would step down from his position.

Brad stated that the policy should have lee-way for items to be looked at case by case.

Bob said the fire department has revenue. To end the confusion the FiComm needs to make it clear to the BOS who comes for requests, the BOS can't approve more monies only the FiComm. Boards will

have to make adjustments in their budgets to accommodate unforeseen expenses. The reserve funds are not to supplement payroll.

Brad said that in the case of the fire dept it was for wages and they needed to be paid.

Lee said there should be some protocol to follow.

Paul said if we give them 60,000 and they use 30,000 they aren't going to return it.

Bob said that FiComm should only support depleted budgets, no over funding. If they haven't depleted their budget and we give them more money we deplete the reserve.

