



TOWN OF FREETOWN
Finance Committee
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FREETOWN TOWN CLERK
2021 JAN 11 PM 2:43

Minutes of

MEETING: 5:30 PM Tuesday November 24, 2020

Virtual Meeting. A recording of this meeting is posted on the town website and the Town of Freetown YouTube Channel

Call to order 5:30 PM

Present – Gary Martin - chair, Katie Calheta, Carol Woldorf, Christine Shea-Dupras

Absent – Robert Alderson, Craig Rosen, Huguette Lord

Motion by Carol, seconded by Christine, to accept the minutes of October 3, 2020. Approved unanimously. Yes: Gary, Katie, Carol, Christine.

Motion by Carol, seconded by Katie, to approve the request from the Fire Department to transfer \$35,000 from the Reserve Fund to the Fire Department Additional Equipment account for the purchase of a new breathing air compressor. During discussion of the motion, members requested that the Chair send a message to the Fire Chief suggesting that there should be a capital budget plan for replacing old equipment before it fails. The equipment is essential and needs to be replaced, so there was no opposition to approving the funding, but there was concern that the eventual failure of the equipment could have been better anticipated. Approved unanimously. Yes: Gary, Katie, Carol, Christine.

Motion by Christine, seconded by Carol, to postpone until December 3 consideration of the request by the Board of Selectmen to transfer \$22,500 from the Reserve Fund to the Highway Department F/T Salary/Wages account to hire a truck driver and to ask the Board of Selectmen to provide more detail about the request. Members were concerned about using the Reserve Fund to pay a salary for a position that had previously been in the Omnibus Budget and could have been included in the Supplemental Omnibus Budget that was prepared just a few weeks before this request was made. Approved unanimously. Yes: Gary, Katie, Carol, Christine.

There was some discussion about which members' terms will be expiring this year and efforts to recruit potential new members. The next meeting was set for Thursday December 3 at 5:30 pm.

Motion by Carol, seconded by Christine, to adjourn at 6:00 pm. Approved unanimously.

Minutes prepared by Gary Martin