



RECEIVED  
FREETOWN TOWN CLERK  
2016 SEP -1 AM 10:15

*jab*

## Freetown Finance Committee

---

Meeting: April 13, 2016 @ 7:00 PM

Members present: Brad, George, Joel, Kent, Bob, Paul

Brad called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Said they would go over the transfers before accepting the minutes so the heads of the departments could leave.

1 - Chief Silvia went over his request for an additional \$7,500.00. The extra monies are to pay for a power stretcher and retention system for the new ambulance. The cost of the new stretcher is \$16,877.00, and an installation fee leaving a shortage of \$7,500.00. Monies in the amount of \$225,000.00 were allocated for the new ambulance, the cost of the ambulance without the stretcher was \$215,000.00, leaving a balance of \$10,000.00. Therefore, there is a shortage to pay for the stretcher, the retention system, and the installation.

George had a question of the reason for the new stretcher and Chief Silvia stated there is a Massachusetts mandate (which he read aloud) to have all ambulances equipped with this new system effective July 1, 2015. Any ambulances purchased after that date would need to be in compliance by July 1, 2016, with any purchases after July 1, 2016 requiring that as standard equipment. The difference in the system would save cities and towns on injuries due to lifting, and injuries caused by the pin on the old system coming out and releasing the stretcher during transport. Currently stretchers lock in the ambulance by one pin holding the stretcher to the floor of the ambulance. The new system will be held by a retention system locking the stretcher in place and securely to the floor of the ambulance.

Paul asked if the money should be taken out of the capital budget. The capital budget monies have all been allocated and there are no extra funds. Anything over the budgeted amount of \$225,000.00 would need to come from the reserve fund.

**Motion to approve the request was made by Paul, seconded by Kent - unanimous.**

2 - Chuck Macomber needed more funds for the Richmond Road Bridge Project in the amount of \$13,000.00. He stated the amount has been changed to \$11,000.00. It was asked by the FinCom what caused the overage. Chuck said the cost of the project was estimated before the project was undertaken. The plans were drawn by an outside company not familiar with the terrain. There was a large boulder that was not known of, they had to rebuild a retention wall, when the excavation was started unsuitable materials were found, they had to go further with the asphalt than first anticipated to create an even grade, some spots needed four inch versus two inch fill. There is a punch list of some asphalt, some stone that will hopefully be completed this week.

**Motion to approve the request of \$11,000.00 was made by Kent, seconded by Joel - unanimous.**

---



## Freetown Finance Committee

---

3 - Jack Healey is requesting \$20,000.00 for legal bills that need to be paid. He estimated that it would be about \$5,000.00 for the months of March, April, May, and June.

Paul stated that the FinCom would have to meet and talk about changing policy. It has been the policy to pay bills as they arrive and not pay an estimated amount for future bills.

Jack felt he had to make his case and read the email that he sent out via email dated March 15, 2016. He also explained that the solar credits would save the town \$1.3 mil and the school \$3.3-3.4 mil over the 20-year period. He will send a summary to the FinCom members.

Brad said there was \$2,000.00 left in the legal budget and he would have to come in over the next few months with the bills in order to receive payment.

**Jack was agreeable to that. There was no vote on this.**

Bob stated that if we break policy for Jack, we need to break policy for the other departments as well. It has always been that you need to show the documents and have exhausted your budget before any extra monies can be paid out.

Brad asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the March 9, 2016 meeting.

**Motion was made by Kent to accept the minutes, seconded by Joel - unanimous.**

The next meeting will be on April 19, 2016, at 6:00, with the BOS to finalize for town meeting.

It was asked if there were any articles that needed to be addressed, but at this time there were none that anyone was aware of. Brad will check with Ali to see if there are any articles that need to be covered and will try to obtain a copy of them for the next meeting. Maybe the FinCom could meet upstairs a few minutes earlier to look at them.

There is still concern about joint meetings - are they productive for the FinCom?

The reserve fund had a balance of \$95,000.00 at the start of the meeting bringing the new balance to \$76,500.00 (\$11,000.00 for Highway and \$7,500.00 for Fire).

Some discussion on Fire and Police overtime and new figures that should be forthcoming. Should they hire new staff to cut overtime, or keep the overtime. George stated that it is not always better to add staff as it can be more costly than overtime. For short staffing, the position should be filled, but to just get rid of overtime on a full staff could be costly with wages and benefits. What are surrounding towns doing to deal with their short staffing issues.

---



## **Freetown Finance Committee**

---

It was requested that I email all the FinCom members the minutes so they can view them ahead of time in order for them to complete the approval process in a timely manner.

**Motion to adjourn made by Joel, seconded by Paul - unanimous.**

Meeting adjourned 8:26 PM

Respectfully submitted  
Lois Amaral  
Finance Committee Clerk