

Bd of Finance/Bd of Selectmen Minutes  
Meeting September 6, 2017  
Warren Town Hall, 50 Cemetery Road  
Meeting Room

Board of Finance members present: Susan Haxo, Jim Richardson, David Robinson, Luke Tanner, Eric Schoenfeld, and Robyn Kasler

Regrets:

Board of Selectmen Present: Craig Nelson, Calvin Tanner, and Stephen Warshaw

Treasurer: Colleen Frisbie

C. Frisbie will be recording secretary for the meeting

The Meeting was opened at 7:30 pm by Susan Haxo, Chairman

1. **Additions to the Agenda:** Motion (Richardson/Tanner) to add the minutes of the Special Meeting of 7/19/17 All in Favor
2. **Minutes**– The minutes of June 7, 2017 were approved at the 7/19 meeting. Motion (Tanner/Schoenfeld) to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of July 19, 2017 All in Favor
3. **Fire Company:** members from the WVFC present: R. Ponton, R. Tanner, J. Meeker Jr., T. Pettit, and J. Horn. J. Horn is the area representative for Pierce, which is where the FC would like to purchase the truck from. Ponton formally requested the release of the \$320,000 from the equipment fund to purchase the new truck. FC does know that the funds can only be released by a vote at a Town Meeting, but going to the BOS and BOF is part of the procedure for getting the funds. FC is aware of the Town policy of getting 3 sealed bids or going through the State contract program. Horn said we would need to apply to HGAC to get bids at a cost of \$2000 to us, but Pierce would reimburse us \$4000 for this process. Richardson asked what HGAC stands for - Huston/Galveston Area Counsel based out of Texas. This is NOT a State Contract. Nelson and Frisbie to contact auditor to find out if HGAC is acceptable or do we need 3 sealed bids. Discussion followed on: what is wrong with the current truck – wiring and valves are unsafe. Could this be fixed? Cost would be \$18,000 +/- and not guaranteed it would work? Does the FC have weekly preventative maintenance on its vehicle? Does yearly maintenance and FC does meet regularly to do training and maintenance on vehicles and equipment, but may not be weekly. Frisbie, acting as the Treasurer, stated that in a few years, funding for another new vehicle may not be feasible considering the financial condition of the State. As of now, there still isn't a State budget which means towns are not receiving any funding and the possibility of paying for the teacher's state pensions may end up being the Town's problem. We never had to budget for The Teacher's Pension estimated to be \$140,000 this year with yearly increases in payment until its 100% paid. Knowing this, is this particular truck needed or could we possibly try and fix the problem and hope that this works? Committee doesn't feel this is worth fixing, and if we wait the price on the truck will increase to \$600,000 or more next year. This statement was opposed by Warshaw saying increases are 4.25% as stated by FEMA. Schoenfeld spoke about ethics – Horn is a member of the WVFC, the representative for Pierce - to me the person selling the truck is also the person making the purchase! R. Tanner stated that Horn was not going to get a commission from this truck – Schoenfeld wanted to know if his boss would put in writing that Horn would not get a dime from this sale whether it was in commission, a job well done bonus, or any other type of payment? Again, from my perspective, this is not ethical. Questions about the relation between HGAC, Pierce and how this particular process works has the BOF leery. Robinson feels the FC Committee should go out to bid instead of possibly using HGAC. Question on what is going to happen to Engine 3? Command, located in PA, has offered to purchase Engine 3 for \$27,500 and the offer is good until the new

truck is delivered. Now another question is who owns Engine 3, the Town or the FC? Who is going to own the new truck since the Town is paying for 2/3 of the truck? The Town and FC will research ownership of Engine 3 and we will also consult the auditor for direction in this matter. FC made note that there is a yearly pump test, chassis inspections included in the price of the new truck.

BOF members did continue to discuss their opinion on this particular truck, ethics, and the process of purchasing a new truck after the FC members left. Questions on whether this particular truck is needed? Could the other truck be fixed? The perceived appearance of who is involved in the buying and selling of the new truck? Thought the truck they purchased from Washington about 2 years ago was supposed to last them at least 5 years until a new truck could be purchased- what happened to that plan? What about the ambulance being replaced next? Fire calls vs ambulance calls? A suggestion of a consultant was made a few times in the past. BOF and BOS feel that a consultant licensed to review small town and fire companies should be hired to perform a thorough review so as to help us and our residents understand what is needed. This should be done prior to a truck being purchased – would like this done asap

**(a) Motion (Robinson/Schoenfeld) to hire a consultant (by bid process) to do a study on the WVFC and to approach the WVFC President to see if they would consider paying 1/3 of the fee and the Town would pay 2/3's. (b) Motion (Richardson/Schoenfeld) to amend the first motion to add "the Town's expense would not exceed \$19,999"**

Haxo called for a vote on (b) motion amendment – *All in Favor- 6 Opposed – 0 Abstained – 0*

Haxo called for a vote on the full motion – *All in favor-6 Opposed -0 Abstained -0*

Nelson to contact the FC President with request and to get bids out for a consultant. It was a unanimous opinion that any vote for the release of funds for a new fire truck at a Town meeting will be made by paper ballot.

4. Review of Expenditures for FY 2016-17 - this is a preliminary report prior to the Auditor's review -  
Review of Expenditures for FY 2017-18 - we are looking good for the first 2 months – all but \$200,000 +/- collected in taxes so far
5. Public Comment: None

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:50pm (Robinson/Tanner) All in favor

Respectfully submitted  
Colleen Frisbie