

Bd of Finance/Selectmen
Regular Meeting March 4, 2020
Warren Town Hall, 50 Cemetery Road

Board of Finance members present: James Richardson, Eric Schoenfeld, Robyn Kasler, Luke Tanner

Regrets: Susan Haxo, David Robinson

Selectmen present: Tim Angevine, Craig Nelson, Alexandria Papp

Also present: Colleen Frisbie, Town Treasurer, members of the public

The meeting was opened at 7:30 pm by vice chair Eric Schoenfeld.

1. L. Tanner moved to accept the minutes of February 5, 2020. Second by J. Richardson. All in favor, the motion carried.

2. Reminders:

- (a) Meeting with B. Bernabe on April 1 –bond for town hall

- (b) Meeting time change for all future BoF meetings to start time of 7 pm beginning April 1.

3. Public Comment:

J. Travers re: Greenwoods counseling request for \$5,000. He would like the selectmen to investigate what services would be provided to our residents who cannot afford to pay.

He is in favor of giving some money but would like clarification.

He also had attend the Region 6 budget presentation and noted that Goshen is getting hit hard with an increase next year while Warren and Morris will see a decrease. Discussion followed regarding the idea of an increase cap of 5% with the other towns, who would be seeing a decrease, helping out with the balance. E.Schoenfeld noted that a motion had been voted on by the selectmen at their meeting the previous night and asked for clarification of the intent of the motion. It was agreed that a show of good faith toward our other district towns that are facing a large increase is important.

S. Warshaw asked what the town's financial liability is if sued. A. Papp explained that it depends on the situation and if the suit is a result of neglect. She explained that we will not know our liability until a situation happens.

4. Additons to agenda: E. Schoenfeld moved to add a discussion of the Plan of Conservation and Development to the agenda. Second by J. Richardson, all in favor. The topic was discussed at this time. E.Schoenfeld noted that the Bd of Finance was tasked in the plan to explore tax incentives for businesses. He requests that the Bd of Selectmen explore the topic and asked for information on what the final impact on the budget would be as well as how to be fair to current businesses in town that have been established without any tax incentives.

5. FY 2019/2020 expenditures: No concerns.

6. Budget workshop: C. Frisbie reviewed the Selectman's draft budget. She noted salaries will be taken up at the next Bd of Selectmen's meeting. She has salary comparisons to share at that time. E. Schoenfeld noted that with the hiring of a new ZEO at a higher rate the board should be looking for better equitability.

J. Travers suggested that allocation of the funds for the new truck should come from the equipment fund's balance plus next year's equipment fund allocation. He felt the balance for the truck should not come out of capitol non-recurring. Discussion followed. It was questioned if it could be changed as the legal notice for the meeting stated where the funds are to come from.

T. Angevine noted a few items to be considered.

(a) NWCOG 5 yr Hazard Mitigation Plan is due and our share will be \$1,095 and needs to be budgeted for.

(b) We should budget for replacement of the repeater and antenna. Cost to be \$10,000. This may not be needed for two years. It was suggested we that expense to the Civil Defense line in the budget.

(c) He would like to allocate funds toward sound control in the Community Center.

(d) The barn at Warren Woods needs to be addressed, either a new roof or complete replacement. He recommends increasing line 111 from 25,000 to 55,000 to cover this as well as the Community Center sound issue.

(e) Computer upgrades and security-Our IT person from EdAdvance has done an overview of our systems and has presented some recommendations. Cost could run from \$5,000-20,000.

E.Schoenfeld questioned why we put money in the Cemetery Fund every year when there is a large balance in that fund that is not being used.. We are looking at needing more space and will either be buying land or developing land that the town currently owns and those funds will be needed.

L. Tanner moved to adjourn at 9:20 pm. Second by R. Kasler, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne C. Tiedmann