

Bd of Finance/Selectmen
Regular Meeting October 4, 2017
Warren Town Hall, 50 Cemetery Rd.

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

Regrets: Susan Haxo

Board of Selectmen present: Craig Nelson, Calvin Tanner, Stephen Warshaw

Also present: Colleen Frisbie, Town Treasurer, members of the Warren Vol Fire Co

The meeting was opened at 7:30 pm by David Robinson as acting chair.

- 1.) J. Richardson moved to accept the minutes of the September 6 meeting with the following corrections: Section 3 the word “by” be replaced with “be” and “Huston” be replaced with “Houston”.
Time of adjournment should be 9:50 not 10:50.
Second by Eric Schoenfeld. All in favor, the motion carried.
- 2.) J. Richardson moved to add to the agenda discussion and possible action on the purchase of a town truck. Second by E. Schoenfeld. All in favor, the motion carried.
- 3.) State Budget Update: Craig updated the board with information obtained from a COST meeting with the Secretary of OPM. It appears the governor will not sign a budget unless the provision for the towns paying part of the teacher’s pension is included. The first year will be 50% which is about 1 mill to the town, the second year will be at 100% (2 mills). The superintendent of Region 6 has advised the selectmen that without the aged grant the town of Warren will be responsible for about \$115,000 (another mill) and out of district tuition will be going down as surrounding towns won’t have the funding to pay Region 6 tuition for the aged program. This could translate to another 2 mills. In addition the town aid road money may be hit (the town received \$181,000 each year for the last two years). All of the above are situations that we have no control over and could result in the town needing to send out supplemental tax bills for as much as 4 mills on the current 2017/2018 budget. There was actually instruction to the towns on how to go about sending supplemental tax bills. Discussion followed with the need to alert residents with perhaps a mailing to go out to encourage people to attend the upcoming town meeting to learn as much as possible.
- 4.) Fire Truck Committee: R. Ponton spoke to the board regarding the Fire Company’s request for the funds to purchase a new truck. He outlined three points:
 - a. Do we need a new truck?
 - b. The bid process
 - c. Ethics issue

The Fire Company feels a new truck is needed for the safety of the fire crew as well as the public. The consultant request from the board's meeting last month went to the Fire Company and will be discussed at their next monthly meeting.

Bid process: The Fire Company is aware that our policy allows for the Board of Selectmen to waive the bid process and asks that this be considered to be in the best interests of the town.

Ethics: Mr. Ponton described an ethics issue as "someone acting in their own best interest as opposed to the best interests of the people". He felt that the person who works for the company that would be selling the truck has been an asset to the company and the town and that there is no ethics issue. When the old truck is sold the money will go back to the town

Lengthy discussion with questions and answers followed.

E. Schoenfeld stated that no one here wants to see the Fire Co. not have the equipment they need, but the choice seems to be between doing it fast versus doing it right.

J. Richardson moved to require a study by a consultant and to table putting the fire truck purchase on the town meeting agenda until we have the study results. Second by R. Kasler. Four in favor (Robinson, Richardson, Kasler and Schoenfeld), one abstention (Tanner), the motion carried.

- 5.) Town truck purchase: Josh Tanner, road foreman, presented figures to replace truck 11. This had gone out to bid about a year ago and the board was not happy with the bid price or the trade in. A 2018 Chevrolet Silverado 3500 HD 4WD truck has been found through the state contract at a better price with a more favorable trade in allowance. J. Richardson moved to bring the purchase to town meeting with the amount not to exceed \$36,000. Second by L. Tanner. All in favor, the motion carried.
- 6.) Town meeting agenda: Agenda to include State Budget Discussion, Town Truck Purchase, Election to Planning & Zoning. A postcard type of mailing will go out to residents encouraging them to come to the meeting.
- 7.) Public comment: H. Lethbridge thought the board did a good job with the meeting and feels that the study needs to be done.

J. Richardson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm, second by L. Tanner. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne C. Tiedmann