

Meeting of the Finance Committee
Wednesday, January 7, 2004

Attending: Todd Abbott, Brenda Edgerly, Denise, Everest, David Fedrizzi, Mark Rogers, Paul Verrell

Also Attending: Nancy Brandt, Douglas Foglio

Not Attending: John Carter

The meeting opened with a request to Nancy to address the committee regarding her memo to the Finance Committee. There have been some adjustments to the budget requests.

1. The Fire Department has removed their request to a new ambulance (\$30,000.00) and the Cascade system (\$38,500.00) in order to request the purchase of a new Jaws-of-Life extraction tool (\$44,000.00).
2. The Selectmen have also reviewed the salary of the Fire Chief and suggest that his rate of pay increase to \$19.00 per hour. This equates to the high end of the minimum salary, according to the pay study which was recently conducted.
3. The Transfer Station request has been reduced to the same as last year (\$497,464,.00) down from \$566,200.00
4. The Transfer Station has also removed their request for the radio system (\$8,000.00) These radios have already been purchased, (one for the Road Commissioner and one for the Town Administrator) and now allow the Road Commissioner to stay in touch with the plows.
5. Selectmen have discussed raises and salaries which are expected to increase by the rate of inflation, which, on 12-11-03, was 2.04%. The change from the original budget request may reflect the few salaries which were out of the pay study range. This pay study will need to be implemented either over a 2-3 year period or all at once
6. The Selectmen requested that the Public Safety Committee review the purchase of a municipal vehicle. This would be available for any municipal employee, but specifically for the ACO and the CEO. This vehicle was a pick-up truck with a cost of \$15,000.00.
7. Ross Corner Fire Station has received a grant for an additional fire truck. FEMA will cover 90% of the cost and Waterboro will expend \$7,400.00. The other towns of Shapleigh and Alfred will **each** contribute \$7,400.00.
8. The total of all requests at this time equal \$8,363,337.27
9. The Selectmen will hold a Public Hearing to adopt the 5 year Capital Plan
10. The deadline for money articles to be included in the Warrant is January 23rd. The deadline for non-money articles will be February 23, 2004
11. The auditor will complete the audit shortly. No major problems are apparent at this time.
12. All articles passed at the December Special Town Meeting, totaling \$74,720.24 from Surplus for appropriations.

Dave indicated that the committee will review the Capital Plan and return with recommendations: 1) Accept as presented, 2) accept with amendments, 3) suggest a total review.

A discussion of the Transfer Station followed. If fees collected the Transfer Station are not approved to go toward Capital Improvements for the Transfer Station, then those revenues revert to the General Fund (per vote at the Town Meeting, 4-03)

At the next meeting the 5 year Capital Improvement Plan will be discussed. This committee will meet with the Selectmen in February to review the details. This must be finalized by March 23 so the Town Report can go to print. There can be no changes or alterations for one month preceding the Town Meeting. Some concerns were expressed about approving the Capital Improvement Plan too quickly. Each department needs to be reviewed. Mark made a motion to: Return the Capital Improvement Plan to the Selectmen with the recommendation of NO Action. This was seconded by Brenda. Further review will take place following the Town Meeting. Vote: 6-0-0.

Doug addressed the board and indicated that businesses may wish to link to the new Town Hall website. He further cautioned the committee about supporting issues that would result in municipal issues causing an increase to the taxes in town. He further discussed the proposed change in title from Selectmen's Secretary to Administrator's Assistant. He also mentioned the possibility of having the need for a part-time Town Planner. Perhaps this position could be shared with other towns.

The next meeting of this board will be Wednesday, January 14 at 7:00 in the 1st conference room of the old building. Further meetings will be on Wednesday, January 28 and on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month so no conflicts occur with the Planning Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Carter, Secretary