

LANESBOROUGH FINANCE COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

February 11, 2013

Members Present: Bill Stevens, Al Terranova, Greg Wolf, Mike Murphy, Chris Galib

Guest Present: Paul Sieloff, Town Administrator

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM in Lanesborough Library

Special Town Meeting:

Paul Sieloff reviewed items on Warrant for Special Town meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 12 at 7:00 PM. (1) Zoning change for Adventure Park, (2) By-law for jewelry kiosks in Berkshire Mall, (3) Change in penalty fees for late property tax payments.

Reserve Fund Transfers:

Planning Board requested \$135.00. The advertising costs have been more than expected and they will need the funds to cover future postings. Motion to transfer \$135.00, seconded, voted in favor 5-0.

Building Inspector Expenses requested \$40.00. Account balance is \$44.15, and there is a bill for \$69.98 for printer ink (HP-57 color \$43.99 and HP-56 black \$25.99). A discussion followed regarding using a common account for such items rather than having each department purchase separately. Paul Sieloff pointed out that it is all purchased under the same account at Staples, and allocated to the department when received. If this request were not approved, the amount would be charged to Town Hall expenses. Motion to transfer \$40.00, seconded and voted in favor 5-0.

FY-2014 Budget Review:

Bill Stevens and Paul Sieloff reviewed the line item budget as prepared by Paul Sieloff.

1. There is a slight (2%) increase in the town hall employee salaries
2. Some expense accounts are showing slight increases
3. Line 153: Technology Services is added to the line item budget at \$10,000. It was an article in the FY-2013 budget. Paul is suggesting that we continue with this for at least the next few years. It will cover such costs as the broadband installation, re-wiring the Town Hall, new desk top computers, more hardware, new server for Bruce Durwin, networking connection, and a computer service contract.
4. Line 196: Consultancy is added at \$5,000 in case we need a consultant to come in for some reason not known at this time. It is a good account to have available.

5. Lines 312 & 914 Health Insurance: Paul has firm numbers for these costs and the 5% increase projected will cover the increase for FY-2014.

6. Line 420 Highway Salaries: Paul has added \$1,000 Stipend for Bill Decelles for additional management assistance in supervising the roof repairs and other municipal work to be done.

7. A quick review of the budget summary sheet was presented with the bottom line indicating that the budget would be about \$5,000 below the levy limit, with level funding from the State. At this time the Governor's H1 budget is indicating a net loss of \$65,000 from state revenue and assessments.

7:00 PM meeting venue moved to Selectmen's Office

MGHS Regional District Amendment Committee (Carrie Green):

Carrie Greene explained the grant figures for the above committee and stated that the timeline is to complete the study by June 30, 2013 and have the complete by 7/31/2013. She asked for volunteer members to represent the Selectmen and the Finance Committee to sit on the committee. She was advised that a decision would be made before the end of the evening to name the individuals.

Highway Department (Bill Decelles):

The department has requested a slight (\$2,780) increase to cover the increases in fuel, black top, gas, etc.

An increase in Winter Roads account to \$84,000 is requested as we are spending more than \$100,000 annually on average, and want to continue to increase this line item.

Bill agreed that he could reduce the All Town Mowing from \$12,000 to \$10,200.

There is a request for a new truck, to replace the 4-wheel drive vehicle. It has needed over \$24,000 in repairs over the last few years, and repairs will continue to increase.

There is discussion of possibly doing joint work for Hancock, and for the Berkshire Mall, but since no agreements are in place, there will be no budget changes for FY-2014.

Fire Department (Charlie Durfee):

Their main concern is in vehicle maintenance and have proposed that two vehicles need immediate replacement (1) the 1987 Forestry Truck as the box is rusting out. They would like to replace with a one-ton utility vehicle. (2) The Chief's vehicle which is a 2002 Ford Explorer, is rusting and recently needed \$750 in repairs to pass inspection.

Police Department (Mark Bashara):

There is no plan for a new vehicle for FY-2014.

Mark has developed a budget considered “perfect” as far as coverage and to comply with the contract obligations, and then a budget which has been included in the budget by Paul Sieloff which he referred to as a ‘compromise budget’. Mark can make changes with do drastic coverage change to meet the compromised budget as presented in Paul Sieloff’s recommendation.

The expense budget is increased from \$76,500 to \$80,500 to cover maintenance agreements and the additional cost of ammo etc. as they now have to qualify on the range twice per year. (Paul Sieloff budget is for \$80,000)

The E-911 budget figure is as received from the Berkshire County Sherriff’s Office.

8:30 PM: Meeting venue moved back to Lanesborough Library

MGRHS Regional District Amendment Committee:

Al Terranova has volunteered to be the committee representative for that committee and he was nominated by the Chair and approved by the committee. WVS will notify Paul Sieloff of the appointment.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM

Respectively submitted,

William V. Stevens, Chairman