

LANESBORO FINANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
February 26, 2007

Members Present: William Stevens, Chairman
Ruth Brower
Robert Pollock
Al Terranova

Guests Present: Charlie Durfee, Fire Chief
Debbie DeCelles, Recreation Committee, and Ambulance Fund
Donna Forgea, Treasurer/Collector

Meeting called to order at 3:30 PM

Fire Department:

Department expenses showed some increases and decreases, and bottom line is requested at 3.3% higher than FY-07. The major increases were in Testing (as required for equipment) and Office Supplies (computer expenses).

The Fire Inspector's Salary is requested at \$15,000 as compared to \$6,200 from FY-07. This is due to the Selectmen's action to increase the cost of inspections from \$10 to \$25. Charlie essentially took the \$6,200 for FY-07 divided by \$10 and multiplied by \$25. He did state that the fees received for inspections were reimbursed to him, so the increase would be covered by the reimbursable fees at the higher rate. In discussion he stated that he does about 90 businesses in the mall, 4 times per year per State Law for free as they do not pay the town for inspections. Also, the use of a revolving fund for fee payments was brought up for discussion. Charlie was asked to provide the committee with a count of the number of residential inspections that have been in the past few years. He also will check with the Fire Marshall to determine if it is legal to assess the cost of inspections to the commercial entities as well.

He also had requested \$10,000 be added to the Grant Matching Expense account. The present balance is \$9,699.98 as of 1/31/07. Charlie estimated the balance at \$6,200 per his accounting on 2/26/07. This had been crossed out of the budget request page given to the Finance Committee, and Charlie was not aware that it was not submitted to the committee. This was discussed and Charlie stated that this has allowed the town to receive over \$300,000 in grants for a cost of about \$17,000 to the town. He would like to bring the balance up to at least \$10,000 and would at least like to have \$4,800 allocated to build the fund balance. Grants could come in with the town share at anywhere from 5-10% of the cost of the project, and the additional amount will give them the leeway to apply for more grants.

Ambulance Fund:

Debbie DeCelles presented the FY08 budget for the Ambulance Enterprise Fund and the expenses are at \$22,740 (up from \$17,090 in FY-07), and salaries are \$18,500 (\$15,590 in FY-07). The EMS Director/Deputy salary line increased \$2,500 for FY-08. The total for the transfer will be \$41,240.00.

Recreation Committee:

Park Maintenance is level funded for FY-08 at \$3,000.

Recreation Directors Salaries are level funded for FY-08 at \$2,600.

Recreation Expenses are increasing from \$23,206 to \$30,634. The major increases are in baseball and basketball. A "Prep" league for 13 year-olds has been added to the schedule and will require, equipment, uniforms, and umpiring fees.

Town Treasurer, Collector:

The Treasurer/Collector's salary is requested at 3% increase from FY-07, and the Assistant's Salary is requested at 5% increase to bring her salary more in line with that of the Assessor's Secretary. Donna stated that the Assistant's responsibilities were greater than those of the Assessors secretary and therefore the increase was warranted.

The department expenses were requested at \$22,335 or about 1.2% greater than Fy-07.

Tax Title Expense was level funded at \$5,000

Town Medicare expense was increased \$1,000 to \$31,000.

Short Term Interest was level funded at \$2,500.00

Chariman Stevens reminded the committee members that we get exposure to recommended salaries for town employees, and in most cases, until the town votes or the contracts are finalized they should not be discussed outside the meeting.

Next meeting scheduled Monday March 5, 2007 at 7:00 PM in the Library.

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Ruth Brower, Secretary