

LANESBOROUGH FINANCE COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

February 6, 2012

Members Present: Brian Johnson, Bill Stevens, Al Terranova, Mike Murphy, Gregory Wolf

Guests Present: Charis Keeler, Win Newton: Council on Aging

Bill Decelles, Highway Department

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

Minutes of Meetings dated December 5, 2011, January 9, 2012 and January 23, 2012 were moved to accept by Al Terranova, Seconded by Mike Murphy, Voted in favor with no corrections, 5-0.

Council on Aging: (Charis Keeler , Director, COA; Win Newton, Chairman COA

The present van for senior transportation has 98,000 miles and is requiring increased maintenance costs. It will be difficult to continue to fund the maintenance from the Transportation Donations. There will be a Council on Aging Board meeting soon, and the subject of a slight increase in the suggested donation will be discussed. There is a van available (same model year) with 7,000 miles, which should be available soon, and will allow a reduction in maintenance costs. The van must be safety inspected (by BRTA) every 5,000 miles.

There are extra expenses since now since physical examinations, drug program procedures, certification, etc. is required for the drivers (and Charis).

In general the van serves about 19 people, and Charis estimates that Lanesborough has 767 residents over the age of 60. Win stated that the goal of the COA and Senior Transportation is to service everyone who needs rides, or help.

An issue of the van stopping at a convenience store in Pittsfield and being left with the motor running was raised by Mike Murphy, and Charis responded that that situation has already been addressed.

There was discussion as to the payment terms of the 'transportation salaries'. The drivers are paid \$9.99 per hour for 40 hours every two weeks. Al Terranova had issue with 'hourly' versus 'salary'. Bill Stevens noted that van was seen out on Saturday and asked how the driver was paid for that time. Win responded that he will sometimes aid a senior citizen on Saturday, but does not get paid for the time.

There was additional discussion regarding the Senior Work-Off Program, and the appearance of conflict of interest as most (if not all) of COA board members are in the program which is administrated by the Director of the COA, who answers to the board.

Highway Department: Bill Decelles, Highway Superintendent

Bill reviewed his expenses and noted that some went up about \$100, and others more. The line painting budget of \$5,500 is to do the whole town, as it needs to be done every year. Thus his total expense budget has increased slightly.

The winter roads and sanding has been considerably more than the \$80,000 as voted in the past, and he would like to see it increased and has recommended \$82,000. Bill Stevens commented that the amount expended for the last few years has been in the \$120,000 range, and the Finance Committee will need to consider how to close the gap between the budgeted amount and the actual. Bill also commented that with the new truck he needed to buy a plow (\$1,500) and sander (\$4,500) which had to come out of the FY-2012 Winter Roads and Sanding budget, so even though we have had little snow so far, his budget is not going to be significantly less than last year.

He is strongly in favor of having the All Town Mowing expense line as he can hire a seasonal worker for \$6-\$7.00 less than he pays his staff who would have to do it in the absence of the seasonal worker. They mow: Laston Field, Lanesborough School, Five cemeteries, Police station, Town Hall, Highway department, Narragansett park. They also do burials at Mountain View cemetery.

Bill agreed that the vehicle purchases as listed in the 10-year forecast were realistic, and needed to be purchased pretty much as scheduled.

FY-2013 Budget:

Bill Stevens reviewed the FY-2013 rough cut budget, and with line items as requested, MGRHS at 2% and LES at 1%, Vocational Ed at 5%, Insurance cost at 10%, while using \$120,000 Free cash to reduce the budget, we are \$130,000 over the levy limit. It was noted that it was also based on the state aid as presented in the Governor's budget on 1/25/12, which had state aid at negative \$5,000 and the state and county charges increased by \$81,000 (mostly School Choice and Charter School reimbursement)

Next regular meeting will be March 5. Brian is still trying to get meeting scheduled with the Recreation Committee and American Legion. He will provide confirmation of date and time for next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM

Respectively submitted:

William V. Stevens, Secretary