

LANESBOROUGH FINANCE COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
March 1, 2010

Members Present: W. Stevens, R. Brower, B. Johnson, A. Flynn, A. Terranova

Guests Present: Ron Tinkham, MGRHS School Committee

Mark Bashara, Lanesborough Police Chief

Bill Decelles, Highway Superintendent

Meeting called to order by Chairman Stevens at 7:00 PM

**Reserve Fund Transfer:**

Request for \$1,600 for the American Legion to cover the projected costs through June 2010 for Electricity, Fuel Oil, and Telephone Service. The balance in the account will be \$15.33 when the outstanding warrants are paid. Transfer of \$1,600 moved by R.Brower, second by A. Flynn. Motion approved 5-0.

**MGRHS Budget:**

Ron Tinkham advised the Committee that there were a number of issues that have forced cost increases to the School Budget, one of which is the additional charges for Charter School students coming from the elementary school into the charter school. Along with other costs, they are looking at fixed cost increases of about \$500,000. Williamstown will be having their town meeting in May, and they may be faced with an Over-ride vote, and if one passes, Lanesborough will likely be faced with an Over-ride as well. It will at least provide input as to what the cost would be to Lanesborough with the Williamstown portion approved. It was agreed to meet with the MGRHS School Committee on March 18 at 7:30 in the Library.

**Police Department Budget:**

Chief Bashara reviewed his budget, and provide some data to answer some questions raised previously during initial budget discussions. He provided figures on law enforcement employees per 1000 capita for various regions, with the Northeast US at 3.5. The Bureau of Justice has a figure of 2.2 per 1000 for towns between 2,500 and 9,999 population. He has 6 Officers (not including himself) and based on 3,000 population, the value becomes 2.0 per 1000, which is well within the normal.

Also, the compared the salary budgets for various towns in Berkshire County:

Municipality	Full Time Officers	Number of Cruisers	Salary Budget
Dalton	10	7	\$900,000
Lenox	10	5	\$1,000,000
Williamstown	12	9	
Lee	11	4	\$950,000
Stockbridge	7	3	\$550,000
Sheffield	6	4	\$500,000

Lanesborough	7	6	\$353,000
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After some discussion Mark revised his salary request to \$360,000 to cover step raises and not include any raise in salary rate for FY-2011. His expenses are mostly un-controllable, but he will run the department at the amount as approved by the Town at Town Meeting.

**Highway Department Budget:**

We had no request from the highway department for salaries as the contract has not been negotiated yet. However, there is one previously negotiated step increase of \$935, which when added to the previous year salary amount would bring the request for FY-2011 to \$236,054.

The winter roads account was requested at \$82,000 at \$2,000 above 2010. After some discussion it was decided by the Finance Committee to leave that at \$80,000.

All town mowing is level funded at \$12,500 which covered all the parks, ball fields, cemeteries and the school. He uses a summer employee at \$12.00 per hour. It was noted that this includes the school which had been budgeting about \$8,000 for mowing annually, so there are good savings with this arrangement.

It was also noted that the request for a new truck at \$35,000 would not be submitted as an article for this year's consideration.

Next Meeting: March 18, 6:30 PM with Selectmen, 7:30 with MGRHS Committee

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectively submitted,

William V. Stevens, Chairman