

LANESBOROUGH FINANCE COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

April 23, 2012

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

Meeting called to order at 7:05 by Chairman Johnson.

**Reserve Fund Transfer:**

Request to transfer \$1,850.00 to Stormwater Management Account. This account is over spent due to the payment of a \$3,000.00 fine levied by the DEP for failure to submit the annual report to them as scheduled. Joe Kellogg explained that Paul Boudreau had let this report 'slip through the cracks' and we were subsequently fined by the EPA. The finance committee had planned to bring up at town meeting to provide public awareness of the fine. It was finally decided that it would not serve any purpose to criticize Paul Boudreau in public, and the transfer was made from the Reserve Fund by a vote of 5-0.

**FY-2013 Budget:**

There was serious discussion regarding the philosophy to use in finalizing the budget line items. Al Terranova favored making small reductions to most all line item expense accounts to be fiscal responsible in the face of the projected budget shortfall in the long term, as evidenced by the data provided in the 10-year fiscal evaluation. The other view was to level fund all expense accounts, which in view of normal inflation, was essentially equivalent to a small reduction in the budget.

It was decided not to make 'across the board' cuts and the following accounts were modified from those values in the 4/17/12 version of the line item budget as presented by Bill Stevens.

**Police Expense:** Voted 5-0 to level fund at \$76,500

**Fire Protection:** Voted 5-0 to level fund at \$70,200

Highway Expenses: Voted 5-0 to level fund at \$116,350

**Landfill Monitoring:** The extra monies requested were to pay for the monitoring of the well at the Trybus property. It was felt that this should be make public at the Town Meeting as to where these funds were directed. It was voted 5-0 to level fund at \$6,175 and have the additional funds as an article on the Warrant.

**Recreation:** The Recreation Committee requested an increase of about \$8,000 from last year. There was discussion about recommending the requested amount, and eliminating the Director's Salaries, but was finally decided to level fund the expenses at \$21,543 and leave the Salaries at \$6,000. Voted 5-0.

**Council on Aging Expenses:** Voted 5-0 to level fund at \$1,700

**Budget Status:**

Bill Stevens reported that with the change in the State Aid from the Latest Cherry Sheet which was about \$80,000 in our favor, and the Health Insurance numbers and Vocational Education numbers provided by Joe Kellogg, and the changes made above, the overall budget was \$41,777 under the levy limit. The Free Cash situation looks positive with the decision to borrow the funds for the Highway Department Loader, but all the articles have not been submitted yet. These will be reviewed at our next meeting with the Selectmen.

**Next meeting:**

The next meeting will be Thursday, April 26 at 7:00 PM with the Selectmen.

Respectfully submitted:

William Stevens, Secretary