

LANESBOROUGH FINANCE COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

April 9, 2012

Members Present: William Stevens, Al Terranova

Guests Present: George Himmel, American Legion, Jim Rathburn

There not being a quorum for this meeting, the discussions were held for informational purposes only.

American Legion:

There is a state law that states that the town must provide meeting space for Veteran's Groups. In the 1970's the Town of Lanesborough deeded the building to the American Legion, and the deed will remain in force until the American Legion ceases to exist, at which time the ownership will revert back to the Town.

The building was received in a serious state of disrepair (actual wall separation in one corner). The American Legion installed new windows, floors and did interior work, all of which was paid for by the American Legion. At one point the old furnace needed repair and parts were not available, and it was replaced with a new propane furnace.

When they had a problem with the Septic System, they were told by the Town Administrator (Paul Boudreau), 'not to worry, I'll take care of the fix'. There was no involvement by the American Legion, in the repair, and they felt that they could have completed the work themselves at much lower cost than was expended to do the repair.

The American Legion and the VFW meet in the building regularly once per month (VFW the 1st Tuesday and American Legion the 2nd Tuesday). A lot of time is spent by the members in cleaning and stocking during the week to prepare for the Food Pantry. They presently have about 300 families signed up for food, and will see about 120 each Friday. They have a system where the families pick the items they need off the shelves (with an accompanying member), and their system has been cited as an "Example" of a well run Food Pantry.

The American Legion receives no money from the town for this program, they get Grants and some donations from businesses and family donations.

They are planning to fix the road and parking lot with "airport mix" and also work to improve the electrical distribution system for safety and load reduction. They also fund the 4th of July Parade and the picnic following.

George mentioned that they are looking at ways to reduce the budget cost to the town by investigating a better price for the propane. They were with Moody who sold out to Whiting, whom they use now, but think there are better prices available.

They also pay for Insurance out of their budget, and suggest that it may be a cost saving to the Town, if the building were rolled into the existing town insurance policy for the town buildings. This should be investigated with the Town Administrator and Treasurer.

They have about 75 members at present, but all do not come to meetings.

Barry Sebring is the Veteran's Agent, and he would be the contact for the Veteran's Expense line item in the budget. Bill Stevens, asked George to have Barry send the expected Veteran's Expenses to be forwarded to him for entry in the budget for 2013.

Respectively submitted,

William V. Stevens, Secretary