

LANESBOROUGH FINANCE COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

May 8, 2013

Members Present: W.Stevens, C. Galib, A. Terranova, G. Wolf

Guest Present: Paul Sieloff, Town Administrator

Meeting called to order at 6:05 PM

**American Legion:**

Al Terranova reported a conversation he had with George Himmel regarding the American Legion budget. George stated that the insurance premiums had increased and the price for the Propane has also increased which will result in a budget shortfall for FY-2014. It was suggested that we invite him to attend the next meeting of the Finance Committee for discussion.

**FY-2014 Budget:**

W. Stevens went through the line items for discussion and approval for submittal as the recommended budget for the Annual Town Meeting. There was some discussion on a number of items:

Line 141: Assessor's Salaries, \$54,906, Paul Sieloff stated that the salary line item included three personnel, with the main expense for the Assessor who is paid for a 16 hour week.

Line153: Technology Services, \$25,000. Paul Sieloff has included this line item in the budget to cover the new computers, server, wiring and technology start up services for the town hall computers.

Line161: Town Clerk Operating Expenses, \$7,595. This account has an extra \$5,000 included to cover the cost of training the new town clerk, which was to take place after July 1, 2013. The present town clerk, Judy Gallant chose to retire early on April 1, and the interim Town Clerk (Ruth Knysh) was trained at that time. It was moved and voted to reduce this line item to \$2,500 for FY-2014.

Line 292: Animal Control Officer, Operating Expenses. \$1,500. Paul explained that this line was increased to cover an arrangement to be worked out with the Animal Control Officer to own the vehicle and have the Town reimburse him a set amount per month to cover maintenance and operation of the vehicle.

Line 310: Lanesborough School, \$2,521,068. There was much discussion regarding the non-inclusion of the Pre-K program in the budget as submitted and voted by the School Committee. It was finally decided to recommend the amount as voted by the School Committee and if changes were to be made as a result of meeting held between now and the Town Meeting, the amount could be amended on the floor of the meeting.

Line 510: Health Inspector Salaries & Wages, \$44,370. Paul confirmed that we have two personnel doing Health inspection, one for septic systems, and one for restaurants. Both are salaried town employees.

Line 541: Council on Aging, Salaries & Wages. Paul advised that they are presently advertising for the position of COA Assistant to the Town Administrator. The pay will be the same as the Town Clerk.

It was moved (Al Terranova) and seconded (Greg Wolf) to recommend the budget as submitted by Paul Sieloff with the change as noted to Line 161. Voted in the affirmative 4-0.

**Berkshire Carousel:**

A brief discussion was held regarding the request from Berkshire Carousel to borrow up to \$500,000 from the Town of Lanesborough to aid in payment of construction of the Carousel and Building. Berkshire Carousel would make payments to the Town on an annual basis to cover the costs to the Town for the Loan. It is likely that an Article will be placed on the Warrant as such, but is still in the works and not definite.

**Reserve Fund Transfers:**

Board of Registrars: Requested \$2,500 to cover the costs of the Special Town meeting, Annual Town meeting and Election. This budget has a balance of \$246.86 due to the extra-ordinary number of Special Town Meetings. It was voted 4-0 to approve the transfer.

Veteran's Benefits: Requested \$673.50 to cover the balance of the May and June payments. This account ran short due to increases in the benefits for 2013. It was voted 4-0 to approve the transfer.

**Next Finance Committee Meeting:**

The next Finance Committee Meeting will be June 3, 2013 at 6:00 PM. The location of the meeting will be posted with the Agenda at a future date.

Respectively Submitted,

William V. Stevens, Chairman