

## CHARLEMONT TOWN HALL

### Minutes of the Finance Committee

June 10, 2020

Present: Rich Filoramo, Amy Wales, Lynn Hathaway, Ron Smith

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:02 a.m. by the Chair, Rich Filoramo.
2. The minutes of the May 28, 2020 meeting, after discussion of its content, were to be revised.
3. The Committee decided that it would use the FY 2021 Budget spreadsheet that shows what level funded amounts would be with the school budgets included.
4. Amy said we should expect a 25% reduction in State aid, from information that Senator Hinds sent out. Also, a 20% reduction in receipts is expected. This would mean a \$87,000 decrease in revenue. Those two scenarios alone would mean almost a two dollar increase in the tax rate.
5. Rich moved to use the "Level Funded with Schools" spreadsheet for the June 13<sup>th</sup> Joint Meeting. Amy seconded. Motion passed. Amy raised an issue concerning the fact that the schools will not necessarily be level funded. They will negotiate their budgets with the State Department of Education. What happens if they are awarded more by the State than the Town has allocated?
6. There was concern about the remaining funds in the 2020 FY budget. Rich said he sent out reminders about a memo going to Department Heads to limit their spending. Amy said there is less than 1/12 remaining, and the remainder is how we generate Free Cash.
7. It was agreed that a projected revenue decrease of 20% would be used in the calculations. Amy said that would mean a tax rate increase of \$2.45.
8. Rich brought up the issue of Broadband sign-up. He feels strongly that we should launch a campaign to get people to sign up now! Amy mentioned that Bob and the Broadband Committee should be involved with this discussion, and we all agreed Bob should be invited to the June 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.
9. Ron raised the issue of the radios being needed for FY2021, and they are not listed in the Level Funded Budget proposal. Rich said he believes he saw new dictates from the State saying SelectBoards could authorize withdrawals from Stabilization accounts with a 2/3 vote. This is being looked into.
10. The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Smith