

CHARLEMONT TOWN HALL

Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting – By Teleconference

April 14, 2021

Present: Finance Committee - Rich Filoramo, Amy Wales, Lynn Hathaway, Jay Healy, Ron Smith

Also present: Marguerite Willis, Elizabeth Van Iderstine, Sarah Reynolds, Martha Thurber, Sheryl Stanton, Evelyn Locke, Bob Handsaker

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:31 p.m. by the Chair, Richard Filoramo.
2. The minutes of the March 31, 2021 meeting were reviewed and approved.
3. Town Administrator Sarah Reynolds gave her report:
 - a. CARES Act: \$90,000 was allocated to the Town so far for reimbursements. Also, the Town is supposed to receive roughly \$360,000 in CARES money which would go into the General Fund.
 - b. FEMA money also available. FEMA will not cover Transfer Station expenses, but CARES will.
 - c. FRCOG: Collective purchasing budget increased by 1.87% with no assessment increase, CHPS (Health Services) increased by 10% resulting in a 20% increase to the towns, cooperative inspections increased 1.2%, but our assessments are level. FRCOG also hired a public relations officer as a fully benefited part time position, and they did a 2.5% increase to all their employees.
 - d. Katie Banks was hired as Secretary to the Boards.
4. Hawlemont Budget discussion: Martha Thurber defended the amount of support Mohawk is supplying for the Heath tuition, transportation and SPED. Marguerite asked Super. Stanton why the Hawlemont percentage (24%) of SPED students was so high. Sheryl responded that she thought it was closer to 18%, which is still too high. (They would prefer to target ~14%.) Sheryl stated that she would look into this. Sheryl Stanton and Martha Thurber responded to the question of why “stimulus” money would not be used for this round of capital projects, instead they thought that the better use would be to lower the increase in operational budgets.
5. General Budget Discussion:
 - a. It was agreed to level fund the Tech School and Transportation line items for now. If more money is needed later, it can be allocated then.
 - b. There should be a handout at the ATM to explain what is required in personnel to run the Town.
6. The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Smith

Documents viewed:

Mohawk Regional School District Warrant Articles for the ATM.

Mohawk Regional School District Capital Debt Authorization Articles.

Mohawk Trail Regional High School List of Capital Projects.

FY 2022 Budget Worksheet Draft 6.

This document is a draft until approved by the Finance Committee.