

Charlemont Town Hall

Minutes of the Finance Committee and SelectBoard Joint Meeting

March 8, 2019

Present: Amy Wales, Rich Filoramo, Toby Gould, Lynn Hathaway, Ron Smith, Marguerite Willis, Jay Healy and Sarah Reynolds.

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 8:01 a.m. by Rich Filoramo.
- 2) The minutes of the February 23, 2019 meeting were reviewed and approved.
- 3) There was review of the 5th draft of the FY 2020 Omnibus Budget. The line item for the Town Administrator's salary led to a discussion of whether or not the Town should hire a new Administrator. It was suggested that the SelectBoard should review the job description and decide what it wants that person to do, if hired. Rich will email the SelectBoard to discuss the matter, deemed "urgent", and report back at the next Joint Meeting.
- 4) There was discussion of the salaries of the uniformed services personnel – Fire, Ambulance and Police. Toby Gould presented a report listing their current salaries and proposed salaries for FY 2020, to equalize similar salaries for similar levels of responsibilities. In relation to this, it was suggested that Dennis Annear be invited to the next Joint Meeting.
- 5) David Fierro, Jr., an accountant with Hill-Town Municipal Accounting Services, LLC, appeared to discuss the possibility of his being hired to take over the role of Accountant for the Town of Charlemont. He presently works full-time for the City of North Adams. He stated his "best offer" for a starting salary is \$33,000/year. The SelectBoard is scheduled to vote on his hiring at its next meeting, with a starting date of July 1, 2019.
- 6) It was brought up that Dennis Annear, the Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director, would like more money. The SelectBoard will discuss the matter and decide on any increase.
- 7) Melissa Dunnet, the Mohawk/Hawlemont School Business Administrator, appeared to discuss the next school budget. She stated that the reasons for the increase were Health Insurance increases of \$50,000 and a 3% increase in teacher salaries. She was asked about the amount of tuition paid by Heath, and other questions which she was not prepared to answer in detail. She was therefore asked to return to our next meeting with a breakdown of cost/student and more detail of the proposed increase.
- 8) Tracy Hall, Chair of the Capital Planning Committee, appeared to discuss the proposed items for FY 2020 and beyond. The only issue left hanging is the car replacement used by the Fire Chief. He had proposed leasing a vehicle - a truck - for \$45,000 paid out over 5 years. Since he also is the Fire Chief in Rowe, and travels there often, it is felt that Rowe should share in the cost. The CPC will meet with Dennis Annear, work out the details, and report back to the Joint Committee.
- 9) The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Smith

Documents viewed:

FY 2020 Budget Worksheet – 5th draft

Uniformed Services Salary Comparison and 2020 Proposal

Budget Sheets for 2020 Mohawk/Hawlemont School District

Capital Planning Committee 5 year Plan Proposal

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