

CHARLEMONT TOWN HALL

CORRECTED Minutes of the Finance Committee and SelectBoard Conference Call Joint Meeting

June 13, 2020

Present: Amy Wales, Rich Filoramo, Lynn Hathaway, Ron Smith, Marguerite Willis, Jay Healy; Guests: Dave Fierro, Jr., Bob Handsaker

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:16 a.m. by Rich Filoramo.
2. The minutes of the May 28, 2020 and June 10, 2020 Finance Committee Meetings were reviewed and approved as written.
3. Marguerite Willis distributed a draft MEP chart for the month of July. The Librarian said she would wait until August to purchase books. On line #54 on the MEP chart, the number should be changed to \$800.00. It was decided that Dave Fierro, Marguerite Willis and Lynn Hathaway would get together to develop the July MEP.
4. Rich Filoramo asked about a memo to go to all departments asking them to be frugal with expenses for the rest of this fiscal year. There is a little more than half left in the FY2020 budget, and we would like to have some left over to convert to Free Cash. The SelectBoard responded by saying they have already discussed the issue with their department people, and didn't feel any more needed to be said, but have no problem if the Finance Committee wanted to send a memo to the departments outlining its concern. Rich volunteered to do just that.
5. Broadband expected deficit: there is expected to be an \$8,500 deficit in the Broadband budget at the end of the 2020 FY. Amy Wales suggested to just let it be, and all agreed, meaning it will be covered by Free Cash for one year only in FY2021.
6. Bob Handsaker reported on developments in broadband. He distributed handouts detailing "Municipal Network Projected Build Costs", and "FY2021 Construction Expense Projections (pre-distribution network)". See his report for details.
7. Broadband promotion: there was discussion about publicizing the Town's broadband rollout to the community, and encouraging people to sign up in advance. Bob and his Committee will work on a plan to do that.
8. Stabilization Fund use: there was a memo stating that Stabilization funds could be used at this time to purchase capital items, with a vote required only by the SelectBoard to release the money. Marguerite will reach out to Sarah who has been communicating with Town Counsel to verify if this is so. (The Town Counsel later confirmed that the SelectBoard could with a 2/3 vote release money from Stabilization.) Radios needed this coming year for the Ambulance, Fire and Police Departments could then be purchased.
9. There was discussion about whether the ATM should be held in July. No decision was made at that time. (However, the SelectBoard did vote at a later meeting to hold the ATM on Sunday, July 26, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. at the Fairgrounds.)
10. The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Smith

Documents viewed:

MEP Spreadsheet for July 2020

Broadband Committee Report on Projected Construction Costs

This report is a draft until approved by the Finance Committee and SelectBoard.