

Town of Charlemont
Joint Finance Committee and Select Board Meeting Minutes
April 24th, 2024
Town Hall and via Conference Call

Board Members Present: Lynn Hathaway, Rich Filoramo, Ron Smith, Amy Wales, Valentine Reid, Bill Harker, Jared Bellows

On phone: Jay Healy

Others present: Sarah Reynolds, Star Atkeson

Rich called the meeting to order at 4:01

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Unforeseen item last 48 hours:

Sarah got an email from Senator Markey's office regarding funding for the fire truck. They asked whether the town would be able to contribute 25% of the cost of the truck if the state secured a grant for 75% through a 108 program. That would be \$200,000 from the town. They discussed how to word the warrant. Amy suggested putting in the Town Meeting minutes that the Town intends to proceed with the State grant funding and will commit to the \$200,000, and to answer Senator Markey's office that the town intends to move forward with Warrant approval for that amount. If it falls through, Sarah said they could look at the 20-year program, it will take a few years to get in line for that.

Jay Healy made a motion to move forward with it, Rich Filoramo seconded the motion. All in favor. Valentine Reid motioned to support the 25% matching grant for funding the Fire Truck. Bill Harker seconded the motion. All in favor.

1) Free Cash Update

The accountant has not provided the number yet. Money from land sold will go to the general fund and be certified as free cash next year. The ambulance money will need to be certified for next year. It will be uncertified as free cash and will go back)

2) Fire truck, 20-year loan information: If a ten-year loan for 800,000 truck, the town will pay \$1,036,000 total. pay 103,600 A year with interest. Stabilization not used to pay off loan but can be used as a portion of the cost.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Review / approve minutes from 4/10/2024

Rich Filoramo motioned to approve of the Minutes, seconded by Lynn Hathaway. All in favor.

2. Budget analysis of fixed expenses vs. department-controlled expenses.

Rich read some of the sheet Sarah prepared out loud. 73% of the budget is fixed cost. Jay would like to give that figure to the FinComm group in comparison to the diminishing reimbursement from the state.

3. HWY budget and cost breakdown

The salary lines are off. The base amount has been off for a long time. They have consistently been using the end-of-year transfers. It was suggested to not correct it this year. They will lower the line by one person's

salary this year, and have a three-person crew with the seasonal person filling in. Sarah suggested taking \$23,388 back out, and level funding the rest. With the ½ year of 5% COLA it comes to \$24,505.61

Rich Filoramo made a motion to reduce the HWY budget by \$24,505.61. Ron Smith seconded the motion, All in favor.

Valentine Reid made a motion to reduce the HWY budget by \$24,505.61. Bill Harker seconded the motion. All in favor.

Val found some discrepancies in the budget between expanded and collapsed. They will error check it again.

4. Review of Warrant Articles

- Waiting for Free cash number to know how to recommend funding the warrants. They need to get it to the attorney.
- They went over the road layouts that need to be done for easements for the bridge projects that will be on the warrant.
- The Board spoke again about the wording for the potential earmark purchase of the Fire Truck. Sarah will explain it to the Attorney. They will need to put in the 20-year program versus the earmark, and present it on town meeting floor. They can modify the article on TMF. Want to make sure they are not locked into borrowing \$800,000. Perhaps “borrow up to 800,000.” But less after funding becomes available. Amy suggested they could say they would pull the 200,000. from stabilization.
- Sarah suggested adding an article. With the wording that it is contingent on getting the earmark. If that falls through, putting on hold for 2 years to become a 20-year loan CDBG (Community development Block grant) community.

Rich Filoramo motioned to adjourn the meeting at 4:50 seconded by Lynn Hathaway. All in favor.

Next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 15, at 4:00 PM.

The Select Board continued:

Val will ask the school committee to bring an expanded budget to Town Meeting, or have a public meeting before Town Meeting to go over the budget.

Valentine Reid made a motion to request the school provide an expanded version of the budget and request a public meeting prior to Town Meeting. Bill Harker seconded the motion. All in Favor.

Unforseen in the last 24 hours. Sarah got an email requesting a letter of support for a grant from someone at FRCOG. It was regarding a 2-year project with the Deerfield River Water Coalition regarding resiliency. Sarah looked at the links and there wasn't much concrete information, and the ask was very short notice. Val is okay with disregarding the letter.

Warrants

Valentine Reid made a motion to accept the Select Board Annual Report. Jared Bellows seconded the motion. All in favor.

Valentine Reid motioned to accept the warrant as read, Jared Bellows seconded it. All in favor.

Valentine Reid motioned to adjourn at 5:12, seconded by Jared Bellows All in favor.

Documents viewed at meeting:

Minutes of 4/10/2024

FinComm and Select Board Agenda for April 24, 2024

Finance Committee 2024 Annual report

List of Warrant Articles for Annual Town Meeting

Draft 3 FY 2025 Budget worksheet

Town Meeting Budget collapsed version

Select Board Annual Reportjj