

## Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Charlemont Finance Committee and the Charlemont Selectboard

April 5, 2023

Present: Rich Filoramo, Bill Harker, Jay Healy, Lynn Hathaway, Amy Wales, Ron Smith, Valentine Reid and Sarah Reynolds

Present via phone: Jared Bellows

The meeting was opened at 4:32 pm by Finance Chair Rich Filoramo

### Administrator's Report:

- 1) The Rooms and meals tax for December to February came in both numbers were increases over last year's numbers for the quarter.
- 2) Cherry sheet numbers have not changed, the administrator was at the MMA conference over the weekend where changing the formulas for the State owned Land and Chapter 90 funding was discussed. The State owned land formula shows that Franklin county is the lowest amount paid per acre with \$28 dollars per acre, meanwhile Suffolk gets \$4,726 dollars per acre. Chapter 90 is calculated with road miles, population and employment. The new legislation is looking to weigh the road miles more heavily. It is recommended that towns testify in the bill hearings or send in written testimony. The Administrator will forward the information packet she received to the finance committee. Jay Healy recommended being prepared with what Charlemont was supporting in how to fix the formula, rather than a push that only mentioned the need for more money.

On a motion by Rich Filoramo and second by Jay Healy the minutes from March 22, 2023 were unanimously approved. On a motion by Valentine Reid and second by Bill Harker the selectboard also unanimously approved the March 22<sup>nd</sup> minutes.

Valentine Reid then presented the 2 ½ Override report, he mentioned he had felt it was important to define the roles going forward to make sure that mistakes like this did not occur in the future. The method to fund the override mistake was added to the report as well as the sentence about requesting DOR to implement in their system the ability to reconcile sources and uses between the appropriation sheet and the revenue sheets. On motion by Ron Smith and second by Amy Wales the report was endorsed by the finance committee. On a motion by Valentine Reid and second by Bill Harker the Selectboard endorsed the report. It will be signed by both the Selectboard Chair and the finance committee chair.

The FY 24 Budget was discussed with no new assessments, there was no discussion on the numbers, there was discussion on how to present the broadband numbers and school numbers.

Amy Wales would like the numbers below and an explanation of how broadband transfers pay for the broadband items. She and Rich will resolve this ahead of the town meeting.

Financial warrant articles were then discussed, vehicle replacements were asked for by two departments. There was discussion about leasing versus purchasing. Also the frequency of purchasing and being able to trade vehicles in and get some value versus holding on to them for more years and having them have no trade in.

The articles that the finance committee would recommend free cash for would be:

Cemeteries- \$500

Capital Infrastructure- \$40,000

Bridges- \$20,000

Fire Station Roof Repairs- \$30,000

Audit- \$17,000.00

Raise and Appropriate or stabilization would be recommended for the Fire Engine \$37,500 that the grant would not cover and \$58,209.75 for the police cruiser.

The fire Chief vehicle will be held off until the future of the position and agreement with Rowe is figured out. The new public safety building committee and project engineer could be discussed by placing a resolution on the warrant to see if the town would like to pursue these items and if so, they can be placed on next year's warrant.

Stabilization funds were briefly discussed for future vehicle purchases, the ability to change the use of the funds by a 2/3 vote was also discussed.

On a motion by Ron Smith and second by Amy Wales for the finance committee and a motion by Bill Harker and second by Valentine Reid the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm

Documents viewed:

FY 24 Budget Sheet

Capital Planning Committee Recommendations for FY 2024

2 ½ Override Report