

Town of Charlemont, Massachusetts
Joint budget meeting with Finance Committee and Select Board
SATURDAY, May 14th, 2016

In attendance Finance Committee Chair Amy Wales, Finance Committee members: Rich Filoramo and Lynn Hathaway, Select Board Chair Beth Bandy, Select Board members: Toby Gould and Sarah Reynolds, Town administrator Peg Dean. Absent: Ron Smith.

Called to order at 8:32 am.

1. The Select Board and Finance Committee discussed the funding plan for legal expenses and whether the transfer of \$11,345.32 will get us through. Lynn shared that there will be \$8k in Veteran's; there will be ambulance salaries remaining, and winter appropriations.
Finance Committee Action: Rich made a motion to transfer \$11,345.32 from reserve fund to legal expenses for town counsel expenses, Lynn 2ndd. Passed unanimously.
2. The Select Board and Finance Committee reviewed the revenue schedule. Including within it \$50,000 in new growth, level funding local receipts and state aid, stabilization minus Mountain Road construction costs, and free cash minus FY16 vocational tech school expenses = \$124,000. The difference will need to be raised from taxation.
3. The following changes were discussed and then made to the FY17 omnibus. The Select Board and Finance Committee discussed vocational tech school tuition and transportation in the FY17 omnibus based on FY16 overages. The Town will need to add \$90k; \$80k for tuition and \$10k. EMT salaries were reduced by \$40,000.
4. Financial articles on the warrant were reviewed. **Select Board Action(s):** Toby moved that financial article 18 for \$7,500 be remove from the warrant. Sarah 2ndd. Passed unanimously. Toby moved that the Select Board remove article 13 and 14. Sarah 2ndd. Passed unanimously. Sarah made a motion to remove the audit expense. Toby 2ndd. Passed unanimously. The remaining financial articles were discussed. Can the Town pay for article 15 this year? It is in the budget under town hall maintenance. Use that rather than include an article. Sarah motioned. Beth 2ndd. Passed unanimously. They discuss article 16. Toby made a motion to reduce it by half to \$6,000. Sarah 2ndd. Passed unanimously. They discussed article 11, capital infrastructure improvement program article. Can the Town consider half? If reduces to \$20,000 can Gordon do anything with it? Can only do x number of feet with Chapter 90; with a supplement can do more number of feet. They can use road money to finish off bridges as enter road. Toby made a motion to reduce it to \$20,000. Beth 2ndd, Passed unanimously. They discussed article 12.
5. The Select Board and Finance Committee discussed the debt exclusion. They need a schedule for what the deadlines are. The town does not need to do an override for the budget. For article 12: need language that this needs to be debt exclusion, not prop 2 ½ language. Counsel needs to review to correct it. Peg was asked to take care of today.
6. The Select Board and Finance Committee discussed the omnibus – is there anything that can be reduced. They discussed lawn mowing expenses. Toby makes a motion that reduce the care of cemeteries from \$2,800 to \$500. Sarah 2ndd. Passed unanimously. Discussion of whether can get volunteers. The budget is still at 8.2%. Reviewing Special Town Meeting appropriations from December, the amount was \$2,464.44. Looking back at historic new growth it was consistent at \$50,000. Using that figure. If have 1% of new growth the taxes will go up less. **Select Board Action(s):** Toby makes a motion to reduce fuel based on decreased fuel expenses. Sarah 2nd, passed unanimously. Toby makes a motion to refer article 12 to Counsel for further review. Sarah 2nd, passed unanimously. Amy revised the omnibus reduced the increase in taxes to 8.08%. Toby made a motion to approve the FY17 omnibus budget as

revised/alterd today. Sarah 2ndd. Passed unanimously. **Finance Committee Action:** Finance Committee - Rich made a motion to recommend all other lines, excluding school line items which is left blank, Lynn 2ndd. Passed unanimously.

7. **Finance Committee Action(s):** The Finance Committee discussed and voted on the following articles:
Amy moved that the Finance Committee recommended \$20,000 for the capital infrastructure improvement program article. Rich 2ndd. Passed unanimously. Amy motioned that the Finance Committee recommend bonding article 12 for debt exclusion. Rich 2ndd. Passed unanimously. Add 0 after rescue truck. Rich motioned that the Finance Committee recommend article 16. Amy 2ndd. Passed unanimously. Rich made a motion that the Finance Committee recommend the article for the exhibit hall. Rich 2ndd. Lynn recommend. Passed unanimously. Rich made a motion that the Finance Committee recommend article 19. Lynn 2ndd. Passed unanimously. Amy made a motion that the Finance Committee recommend article 20 to fund Hawlemont Preschool. Lynn 2ndd. Passed unanimously.
8. The Select Board and Finance Committee discussed what will be presented at meeting on Wednesday. What needs to be addressed: roads assessments and bridges, the possibility of a future town meeting, an ambulance work group, broadband meeting with the governor, using a debt exclusion for vehicles, Sarah will discuss BEST. Rich discuss budget. Amy will prepare items for overall budget.
9. Post Friday July 15 at 8am for end of year transfers as a joint meeting and send immediately to both committees, asking Ron if he can make meeting.

Documents Reviewed:

Revenue schedule

8th draft of omnibus

Warrant articles

Respectfully submitted by Peg Dean 6/2/16

Draft minutes until approved