

Town of Sterling
Butterick Municipal Building
Joint Finance and Capital Meeting
February 2, 2023

Chris Paquette called the Finance Committee to order at 6:30pm

Lynne Sheppard called the Capital Committee to order at 6:31pm

FinCom Attendees: Chris Paquette, Chair; Joe King, Lynne Sheppard, Christina Lashua, Paul Austin, George Handy

Capital Committee Attendees: Lynne Sheppard, Chair; Chris Paquette, Joe King, Paul Austin, Christina Lashua

Absent from Capital Committee: Liz Pape

Other Attendees: Bill Caldwell, Town Administrator, Fred Aponte, Town Accountant; Maureen Cranson, Select Board

Proceed to discuss capital and omnibus department requests with department heads:

- 1) Town Clerk: Kathy Ferrell presents:
 - a) Capital \$25,000 place holder for voting equipment (configuration to be determined)
 - b) Omnibus nominal increase: due to remote voting, may need pt employee in future.
- 2) Treasurer/Collector: Vicki Smith presents:
 - a) Capital: None
 - b) Omnibus has medical insurance at 10% increase (included within "insurance-benefit" line), may be adjusted up to 10.5%. The financial implications to be e-mailed to committee. The "insurance-benefit" line includes the OPEB (other post-employment benefits) costs for currently retired employees. This amount to be emailed to committee.
- 3) Open Space: Chuck Plaisted presents:
 - a) Capital changed from \$10,000 to \$5,500 for trail enhancements.
 - b) Omnibus cost for trail maintenance \$2.5K
- 4) Police: Sean Gaudette presents:
 - a) Capital primary \$30,000 for breakroom renovation (current in disrepair). \$10,000 for licenses (yearly expense and will be moved to omnibus next fiscal budget.
 - b) Omnibus shows salaries and wage increases due to delayed step raises, COLA agreement and contractual. Dispatch wages currently under negotiation.
- 5) DPW/Water: Ryan Mouradian presents:
 - a) FY24 Capital:
 - \$135K Truck 9 Replacement (19,500 GVW Hook&Haul, dump, leaf, sander & plow)
 - \$10K Truck 8 Rehabilitation
 - \$70K Truck 5 Replacement -3500 Pickup w/Plow (Replace 2009 F250 w/plow)

\$75K Wheeled Excavator (50/50 split with water dept) New Request
\$80k Wide Area Mower replace smaller unit
\$10K Road Plates – Department owned plates will save time and cost
\$335K Rt 140 & Rt 62 Intersection – Engineering, permitting, design
\$50K New DPW Facility – Preliminary Study and site selection
\$765K DPW FY24Capital Sub-Total

- b) Omnibus wages and salary increase due to COLA, step adjustment and agreements.
- c) Water discussion on cost increases for chemicals (doubled) and need for another water source. All water costs are borne by the water department enterprise fund and do not affect the tax rate.

The Committees thank the Department Heads for their time and effort in completing the presentations.

Finance Committee and Capital Committee Adjourned 8:30pm