

Finance Committee Meeting, February 14, 2012

Butterick Building room 205

Attended by Mike Murphy, Larry Pape, Matt Emsley, Bob Brown, Frank Heineman, John Kilcoyne and Lisa Call.

Terri Ackerman

Meeting started at 7:20.

Met with Tom Rutherford to discuss operating budget of the facilities manager. Inspections and services is up a little. This is due in part to more pumping of wash system at DPW. Repairs and maintenance is on track and the request for FY13 is the same. May increase custodial. Library needs more. Currently 36 hours per week split between buildings. Matt asked about snow shoveling and it depends on the building and day of the week.

Bill Tuttle discussed the DPW budget. He is not overly concerned about anything. Some wage increases. He tends to do a good job shifting monies to cover a particular line rather than requesting reserve transfers. He is working on a FEMA grant to cover the cost of the early snow storm in October. Also looking into hazard mitigations grants, though very time consuming. Applied for grant for the basin truck and its use will be regionalized with Princeton and Lancaster. Will know if received next month. Asked about any projected revenue from recycling. No, it is its own revolving fund, typically \$40,000.

No questions regarding snow and ice and so far fine with the FY12 budget.

Discussed water enterprise. Expense line reflects moving electricity to appropriate line. Equipment repair reflects rehabilitating two wells, up from one. Bill feels that 20% of his time is dedicated to water, though water does not cover any of his salary. Retained earnings will pay to rehabilitate Kendall Hill water tank and Ch. 90 funds will cover repair to Maple St.

Tree trimming article is necessary as it had been done by the light department in the past. Every ash tree in town, (not on private property) needs to be removed. Article is probably two years worth of trimming and there will no longer be the \$16,000 needed for the tree warden.

Article 38 is not a capital fund transfer, but raise and appropriate.

Article 21 will not be needed if grant is received.

Vote to conceptually support following articles, though will look at when we have more concrete numbers: 21, 22 but changed to \$15,500, 25 and 26 from retained earnings and 27 from Ch. 90 funds.

Dave Hurlburt discussed fire and ambulance. Began by answering questions from FinCom members. Dave said there is no problem moving new equipment expense to the capital budget. Increase in wages was initially incorrect. It is 3.39% for fire and 6.29% for ambulance, keeping in mind ambulance is to cover paramedic coverage to offset the fact that one of the most active on-call paramedics is retiring in September and he currently volunteers his time. Dave asked if radio master box could be its own

revolving fund, typically \$6,000 to \$7,000. This does make sense even though FinCom has been trying to limit amount of revolving funds. Noted that ambulance collections is up significantly. New agency is much better and Dave expects this to remain constant. Last year only received \$88,000+ and this year has already received \$258,000+. Sterling is also now making money to provide mutual aid to Lancaster. No more confusion as it is billed for 50% of receipts. Discussed possible grant to pay for 100% of a new hire for two years. No commitment for this position to remain past the two years, though Dave feels it would be needed to replace Jim Harper who had volunteered his services. Dave would like to know if he should apply for this, will be about a year to plan for. FinCom asked him to lay it out first, collect the data, the needs and get back to us. Articles 29 to 31 are for payments on already bought items. #28 is for corrosion repair. Voted to support both.

Briefly discussed appointments to COA building committee. FinCom thinks this is premature. Feel qualified, independent people are needed, not solely supporters of the COA.

Discussed legality of articles 44 and 45. Is it a charitable donation? Purpose of maintaining rail trail for public use? Needs to be reworded.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15.