

Budget & Finance Meeting
Tuesday, January 14, 2020
3:00 PM

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Pat Harvey, Tom Schnabel, Greg White, Barb Dehart, Nancy Woolley, Lois Bond, Vic Ribaud, Rob Gardner, **Absent:** Jim Bowen, Robert Meagher
Guests: None

Greg reported that the Tax Calculator indicates 12.86% increase. The increase would be actually 7.2 cents per 100 or \$.072 per 100 or \$.72 per 1000. Not acceptable, and need more income and less expense. Every \$9,000 decrease in expense can reduce the current budget increase by 1%.

Additional Income: In FY20 we utilized the **Forest Fund (\$27,000)**, but Barb indicates that there is still \$7,500 available to use, which will then close out the Fund.

Discussion – Finance big purchases rather than establish Reserve Funds. Need to send message that we have to make choices and lower costs. Look at what could be considered discretionary items. Greg will review all Departments with areas of increased expense and send a list for all to review to come up with ideas on savings. Discussed paying off the Fire Truck and Loader.

Barb and Greg reported that after reviewing items with auditor Nathan Hawley, that based on the Audit Report there is a \$1,000 fund balance!

Tom Schnabel presented an itemization for upgrade to computer equipment for the Office. Suggestion made to use proceeds from the Constable's truck to offset purchase and installation of computer equipment, and pay in FY20, approximately \$6,000.

With remaining funds available from the sale of the truck, consider purchasing for the Fire Department one Air Pac and Clothing. This would reduce the Fire Department request for FY21.

With regard to the Cruiser Reserve Fund, it's likely that we would have to ask the voters to close out that Reserve Fund and place the funds in the General Fund. Would be an article on the Warning.

Have to look at funds in the HRA account, which will need to be closed out due to a new Health Insurance company, and determine where any leftover funds should be placed, after funding the new company's HRA.

*Check why **Current Use Actual** in FY20 shows \$87,155. \$30,000 higher than expected.

*Request **Grand List, Tax Exemptions and Veteran's Exemptions** from Louis.

*Pat to check with Chris Mattrick as to what we might expect from the **Forest Service - \$5,000?**

*Barb to check with Office on **Youth Sports Income**.

*Review John Champion's Opt Out of Health Insurance

*Nancy to check for Windsor County Courthouse Bond payment

*Review Hickox & Boardman contract and fee - \$500? \$15/employee per month? Why is \$900 in Highway FY20 budget and \$280 in Office budget?

If anyone gets answers to above, please send to Greg.

Greg reported that he will be unavailable after Tuesday, January 21.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 21, 2020 – 3:00 – Town Office

Adjourned: 5:20 PM

NNW

Notetaker