

Budget & Finance Meeting
Thursday, November 11, 2020 via Zoom
3:00 PM – 3:10 PM

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Pat Harvey, Frank Severy, Greg White, Barb Dehart, Nancy Woolley, Lois Bond, Vic Ribaldo, Rob Gardner, Julie Smith, Kristin LaPell, Becky Klein

Absent: Robert Meagher, Jim Bowen

Guests:

Zoom Meeting recorded by Doon.

Agenda: 2021 Town Health Insurance for eligible employees
Set up Meeting Schedule

Discussion ensued on percentage premium contribution – Employee and Town. Currently employees contribute 14% and the Town contributes 86%. Frank presented a 20%-80% split with the teachers. Vic indicated that employee contribution to the WRVA MVP **Gold** plan is 25% employee, 75% WRVA.

After discussion, it was decided to increase employee contribution to 16% and decrease the Town contribution to 84%.

VLCT has outsourced their insurance communications to Hickok & Boardman. Discussed the \$500 that Hickok & Boardman charge for their services, and whether the Town could take on the responsibility of coordinating health insurance plans and informing employees. There could be liability if inaccurate interpretation was disseminated. Additionally, there is a \$15.00 per participant per month fee (\$540) which the Town pays, as well as a *new* per participant per month Administrative fee, which includes debit cards, of \$2.50 (\$90).

Also discussed the Town's contribution to MVP SelectCare to assist employees toward meeting the deductibles in the Platinum and Gold plans. Currently the Town contributes \$650 for single health insurance participants, and Nancy remembered that in a previous year (s), \$1,300 was contributed towards a two-person or family deductible. The Town's contribution (s), if not utilized belong to the Town. Because employees appear to have had minimal use of SelectCare in FY20, the Town did not make a contribution in FY21. We'll need to get a breakdown of monies currently in the SelectCare account.

Julie will coordinate with Teri Martineau a time for Teri to ZOOM meet with employees and explain the differences in the Platinum and Gold plans. Employees will have a choice between the plans.

Next Meeting Dates, all Wednesdays at 3:00 and by ZOOM, and if needed

November 18	November 25	December 2
December 9	December 16	December 23
December 30	January 4	January 15

Town Office has sent budget worksheets to department heads, with a return date of November 16.

Under the terms of **Act 162** which temporarily allows a municipality due to COVID-19 to apply the Australian ballot system to any or all of its meetings (special and annual), the Selectboard are advised to adopt the Australian ballot system for Town Meeting Day as soon as is possible. Frank, Nancy and

Julie will work on details for a remote public informational hearing prior to Town Meeting to discuss articles on the town meeting warning and the 2021 Town Meeting.

Because Rochester will be voting with an Australian ballot, **Act 162** eliminates the requirement for candidates for office to collect voter signatures in order to get their name on the ballot. However, candidates seeking re-election or election are advised that the Consent form requirement is still in effect. Any candidate wishing to add their name to a ballot must complete the Consent form and submit it to the Town Clerk no later than 5:00 pm on the sixth Monday prior to the election, or January 18, 2021.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 – 3:00 – ZOOM

Nancy Woolley