

Budget & Finance Meeting
Wednesday, December 9, 2020 via Zoom
3:00 PM

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Pat Harvey, Frank Severy, Greg White, Barb Dehart, Nancy Woolley, Lois Bond, Vic Ribaud, Rob Gardner, Julie Smith, Kristin LaPell, **Absent:** Robert Meagher, Becky Klein, Jim Bowen

Guests:

Zoom Meeting recorded by Doon.

Agenda: Office, Barb's Employee Worksheet, review of Income & Expense

Review EE Worksheet in Executive Session.

Listers: there are 3, but Louis does the majority of the work. Leave at \$3500. Louis billed 160 hours; Caroline 14

Income: Fund Balance from audited balance 6-30-20.

Interest: Drop to \$15,000

State Current Use State provides this figure annually through Listers

Pilot Payment: Leave at 56,220

Pilot – State Garage: \$2,784

TOPF: Will be having a meeting week of 12-14. No information at this time.

Forest Fund: think it has been expended.

Office:

Fees: Level Fund

Dogs: Leave Alone

Fleet Permit: OK

Judicial Fines: \$4,000 received which is a long way from the expected \$36,000! Because of COVID, the courts are very slow. We'll have to wait. Windsor County has 3 shifts weekly in Rochester. Time will tell.

Recording Fees: Julie reported that the State is requiring all towns to digitize their land records. She is attempting to get information from NEMRC on how they can assist her. In the meantime, this will be a costly project. A percentage of recording fees I think goes to Land Record preservation. I'm wondering if the Records Preservation Reserve Fund could assist us.

Youth Sports Income: Down to \$600. Likely due to Covid.

Refunds to Town: Julie to check

Postage Reimbursement: Utility billing four times per year - \$50.

General Donations: Not sure just what this is.

Miscellaneous Income: Drop down to \$500

Cemetery: Work with Julie on Income and Expense

Expenses: provided by Julie and Kristen

Finance: Line of Credit: interest payments – waiting on FEMA and Bethel Mtn. Road - \$950,000. What is potential of grant income coming in. Will it be paid in FY21. How much of the \$950,000 is short-term loans. Will we repay in FY21?

Salaries: Used 2%.

General Office: Needs more work, particularly as regards computer security. Julie is working with Becky Donnet.

Building & Grounds: Year 2 of Sidewalk Plowing. More info to come.

Mowing Contract: John is paid \$1,200 x 6 ½ months, May through mid-November. *Need to check contract.*

Window Cleaning: Move up to \$500.

Town Trash: How could we budget \$1,200 and have it cost **\$12,366**? Presumably this line item should be \$1,200 - \$100 per month. This figure should be charged to FY21 Solid Waste Actual. The assessment for FY22 will be \$13,13,385.

Portable Toilets: Have not used them in FY21 to date, but should leave the \$3,100 for FY22. *Julie to check with Dundon.*

Street Lights: Julie will contact Green Mountain Power.

Recycling: Able will stay at same contract, and *we'll keep it as a separately voted article.*

General Employee Expenses:

Health Insurance: 3 employees, 1 office, 2 Highway – Figures to follow

Hickox & Boardman: Management Fee \$500 – leave in Office
Additional Fees: \$15 per ee per mo.
Select Care Fee: \$2.50 per ee per month
Julie will provide breakdown for Office & Highway.

Life & Disability: Will remain the same at \$423.

Library: Julie will e-mail Library for their figures.

Highway: Highway is up 19%. **Invite John to the December 16 meeting at 3:00**

Fund Balance for FEMA: Greg and Barb to discuss with Joan.

Vic & Nancy brought up the Tax Commissioner announcing that we could expect a 9% increase in the Education Tax for FY22 because of the cost per pupil and the significant loss in funding for the Education Fund. Add to this, residents of Stockbridge delivered a petition to the Stockbridge selectboard requesting a date for a vote to de-merge the Rochester-Stockbridge unified school merger, preferring the vote date to be Town Meeting. We don't know what the feeling is in Rochester, but we do know that a de-merger will have a financial impact on both Rochester and Stockbridge!

Suggested asking Amy Wildt, a member of the RSUD school board and liaison from the school board to the Town of Rochester, to attend the December 16 B&F meeting at 4:00 to answer some of our questions, a list of which will be supplied to Amy.

Questions for Amy: Dissolution of RSUD Merger

Has the merger been successful? Are the kids in each school doing well academically? Is there any interaction between the schools? Is each school using the facilities of the other?

How many kids are in each school today and what does it look like for the future?

Are the kids in each school having access to the programs they need?

What is the financial and economic impact to each town if the merger dissolves?

Can Rochester School operate on its own as a stand-alone school?

How does the school board plan to inform Rochester residents of the Stockbridge petition to dissolve the merger? Should there be a community forum to disseminate information?

Should the petition have been given to the school board rather than the selectboard?

Is dissolving the merger a Stockbridge town-wide wish? Or is it a few dissatisfied people? Do you know the reasons why people are dissatisfied? Does the school board have any idea how Rochester people feel?

Regarding the survey, were the results resounding or was it a poorly developed survey?

Items for December 16, 2020 Meeting – 3:00

Who will invite John Champion to the 3:00 meeting to further discuss Highway budget?

Health Insurance and General Office Budgets

Amy Wildt will attend the December 16 meeting at 4:00

Adjournment: 4:40 pm

Nancy Woolley