

Budget & Finance Meeting
Wednesday, January 6, 2021 via Zoom - recorded
3:00 PM

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Pat Harvey, Frank Severy, Barb Dehart, Nancy Woolley, Greg White, Rob Gardner, Robert Meagher, Jim Bowen, Julie Smith, Kristin LaPell

Absent: Becky Klein, Vic Ribauda, Lois Bond

Guests:

Agenda: Continued Review of FY22 Proposed Budget

With the latest edition of the FY22 budget, we started at the top and reviewed all Income and Expense line items.

Fund Balance: provided by Auditor Nathan Hawley

Forest Fund: \$7,500 needs to be used in FY21. Suggested that this be used for a mobile lift and painting or some town properties, flagpole, bandstand, library, town office?

Recording Fees: \$4.00 of each recorded page by statute needs to be added to the Records Preservation Fund. Review again what should be budgeted for Income. See addition to Reserve Fund.

Judicial Fines: Numerous reasons why Income is not higher, largely related to Covid. Leave at \$18,000.

Courthouse Bond: \$3,878

Capital Purchase: remove grader and loader lines

Salaries: Selex again reiterated their reasons for increasing the salary of both the Town Clerk/Treasurer and Assistant Clerk/Treasurer. Increase 10%.

Computer Disaster: Many expressed their concern with the price recommendations from Becky Donnet and Saguaro Technology for computer security and equipment, including Office 365. Decision made to make no decision at this time and investigate further. Reduced line item to \$2,500. *NEMRC:* Julie waiting for call from Ernie Saunders. *Vendors:* VLCT has a list of vendors. Doon spoke with Fred Wildt of Computer Barn who thought that the proposal was quite rich.

Office Repairs: Keep at \$500. Includes elevator maintenance and annual fire extinguisher and light certification.

Solid Waste: Pat indicated that Bethel-Royalton rates could be going up and that they are in discussion with Casella. After discussion, decision to remain at the currently requested amount of \$12,552.

County Tax: Have not received an amount from the Windsor County Court, so will stay at FY21 rate.

Windsor County Sheriff: Although fines are not coming in, largely because of Covid, decision to remain at \$18,000.

Fire: Julie to check with State on rates for firefighters.

Grants: Need further discussion with Joan.

Retirement Funds: Not sure what this is about. Barb researching.

Article for Warrant: We may be receive a petitioned request to place an article on the Warning which concerns cell towers and Town responsibility to inform on radiation. Has not been received, but is due by January 12.

Moss Glen Grange: We may receive a petition from the Grange for support of their Food Shelf. Cheryl Sargeant has been advised about the petition and signature requirements, and due date of January 12.

Water/Sewer: Barb is working on this area. Excess fees at year end should be added to Reserve Funds.

Tennis Reserve: With minimal discussion, \$1,000 recommended to be added to Warning.

Town Building Reserve Fund: Went all around this and made decision to add \$8,000 to Warning.

Veteran's Exemption: Julie to verify the exemption.

Land Lease: This amount in the Reserve Funds comes from the sale of lease land in Bingo by Martin Bowen to Martin Maher. There are restrictions on where this money can be placed.

Adjourned: 4:30 PM

Next Meeting: Friday, January 8, 2021 – 9:00 AM

Nancy Woolley