

November 2, 2022

Budget and Finance Minutes

Present: Lois Bond, Nancy Woolley, Pat Harvey, Kristen LaPell, Julie Smith, Greg White, Frank Severy, Doon Hinderyckx (absent), Robert Meagher (absent), Barb Dehart (absent)

Nancy called the meeting at 3:00 pm

Nancy confirmed the Listers were invited to attend an upcoming department meeting to discuss the grand list and proposed town wide reappraisal.

Committee met with Terry Severy to discuss the Fire Department, and Water and Sewer budgets.

Fire Department:

Terry explained the volunteer fire fighters increase in salaries. The officers decided to pay an additional incentive to the \$10 per meeting pay per year. If members attended 50 % of the calls (fire calls) they would pay an additional \$150 and if the firefighters attended 75% or more of the calls, they would pay an additional \$200. Terry shared there are 19 members in the fire department.

Terry level funded most of his budget for the fire department, where he could. He explained the fire department is now involved more with the recreation, and back country recreation. He explained the need for additional snowshoes at a cost of \$1,000 and suiting up 2 fire fighters is at a cost of \$6,000. The gear lasts 5 years.

Kristen will change the line-item name clothing to gear.

Pat is currently putting together a grant for emergency management for the shelter team. She will work with Terry and Greg to come up with items to add to the grant. Greg will put together items the fire department should have for rescue for short term needs.

Terry said he is down 2 or 3 radios and waits until the end of the year to purchase. They cost about \$1,000 each.

Sewer:

Rates will need to be reviewed with the increases to see where the Utilities stand.

Tank Maintenance is low. Billing and Postage were increased with Water & Sewer. Billing to \$600 and postage to \$250

Increased the truck use to \$3,360.00

Selectboard should review Water/Sewer Bank account at the end of the fiscal year to move additional money to the reserves.

With the increased fees and usage, the system upgrades should be taking care of itself.

Committee talked about the Generator maintenance for all generators in town. Fire department uses Bushey, and the town is currently using Brookfield. Once the new generator has its first inspection, the board can decide to use one company for all.

Discussion about ARPA expenses and covered projects.

North Star Rubbish increased their budget to \$21,400.

Request from Granville First Response for their numbers and how many calls they responded to Rochester.

Two Rivers provided their figure for the dues at \$1,791.00

Meeting adjourned at 4:21 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Smith