

TOWN OF WINCHENDON



Finance Committee

Telephone (978)-297-5419

Town Manager's Request to use Reserve Funds

Finance Committee Minutes

March 28th, 2019

Town Hall 2nd Floor Auditorium

Present: Thomas J. Kane Jr.: Chair, Christian Orobello: Vice-Chair, Maureen Ward, Charles C. Corts, Douglas Delay, Charles (CJ) Hesselbee
Brianna Roberts: Recording Secretary

Absent: Amy Salter

Guests: Keith Hickey, Town Manager

List of Documents Presented at Meeting:

- Notice of Meeting, March 28th, 2019 Agenda
 - Requests for use of Reserve Funds
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6:30PM: Chairman Thomas Kane called the Finance Committee meeting to order at 6:30PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

1st Request: Transfer Snow and Ice Reserve Funds:

Mr. Hickey thanked the board for meeting tonight to address two requests. The first request is for a transfer regarding snow and ice reserve funds. For the past two years the town has set aside \$93,000 in the finance committee reserve account specifically for snow and ice. The town has over expended the snow and ice personnel account by \$15,801.24 and the sand and salt expense account by \$54,474.54. Mr. Hickey stated he is seeking a transfer out of that fund of \$82,277 to fund the two overages in the snow and ice accounts. It will also provide an additional \$12,000 to fill the salt shed. Right now the town has the ability to add to the inventory and the public works director has estimated the cost to \$12,000. The reason for the request is due to the current rate of \$56/per ton, historically it has been more expensive at \$68/per ton, last year. The public works director believes this is a good rate and the town should add to the inventory before the price increases. If this request is granted, the \$12,000 isn't going to be expended right away and the plan is to place an order sometime in April.

Mr. Kane asked about the request figure, stating it is \$82,277 but the number on the transfer form is \$82,802. Mr. Hickey apologized for the mistake.

Mr. Orobello asked how much is in the snow and ice reserve fund. Mr. Hickey replied that \$93,000 was budgeted and with the transfer request of \$82K there would be just under \$10,000 left. This would provide coverage for a late storm but the plan is to expend it later in the fiscal year.

Dr. Ward moved to transfer \$82,802 from the finance committee snow and ice reserve to the snow and ice personnel and the snow and ice expenses as stated in the request form. Mr. Orobello seconded. The board unanimously voted aye.

Orobello (Y) Ward (Y) Corts (Y) Delay (Y) Hesselbee (Y) Kane (Y) 6-0

2nd Request: Transfer \$19,000 from the finance committee account to the building account for removal of the catwalk from Lincoln Ave. Ext.

Mr. Hickey explained they have discussed the best way to address the safety conditions at 283 Lincoln Ave. The original plan in the fall was to demolish the entire building and leave the debris there. The DEP interjected and felt that was not appropriate. There is a special article on the fiscal 2019 budget for \$77,000 to tear down the catwalk and left side of the wall. The catwalk and the walls do no contain contaminates such as asbestos which can be disposed of as clean demolition. There are concerns from residents that the catwalk is unstable and unsafe to travel underneath. It is probably the most stable part of the building but the town would still like to address it since it is a concern of the residents. As an interim step, the town had asked a company to give a price on taking down the catwalk. Public Works would push in the wall facing Lincoln Ave. to collapse it into the building. Mr. Hickey has spoken to the DEP and EPA, and while they have not indicated directly, the conversations have led him to believe the EPA is going to tear down and pay for the removal of the buildings at 283 and 271 Lincoln Ave. Ext. They have been doing their due diligence and had testing done to identify the contaminates. If the finance committee approves the transfer, Mr. Hickey would propose to the Board of Selectmen removing the \$77,000 warrant article out of the special town meeting article. The solar project vehicles have held off for a few months due to the concern of travelling under the catwalk.

Mr. Hesselbee stated he took a ride out to Lincoln Ave. Ext. and can understand why residents would be concerned. The catwalk looks solid but everything else looks very bad with debris starting to collect on the side of the road. He believes it is imperative to grant this transfer request to start the teardown process. Mr. Kane asked Mr. Hickey where the catwalk would be disposed of. It will be taken down and placed on the site that is not contaminated.

Mr. Orobello motioned to approve the request to transfer \$19,000 from the finance committee reserve fund. Mr. Hesselbee seconded. The board unanimously voted aye.

Orobello (Y) Ward (Y) Corts (Y) Delay (Y) Hesselbee (Y) Kane (Y) 6-0

Dr. Ward motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Corts seconded the motion. The board unanimously voted aye to adjourn the meeting.

Orobello (Y) Ward (Y) Corts (Y) Delay (Y) Hesselbee (Y) Kane (Y) 6-0

The meeting adjourned at 6:48PM

Respectfully submitted:

Brianna Roberts, Finance Committee Recording Secretary