

Town of Winchendon
Winchendon Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2015

CALL TO ORDER: 6:40 p.m.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Ulysse Maillet, Thomas Kane, Robert Guenther, Cyndi Leroy, Darlene Rossi and Christian Orobello
Absent: Ottmar Rau

MATERIALS Agenda for April 21, 2015 meeting
FY16 Proposed Town Budget
Revised PO Debt FY16 Sheet

Chairman Kane informed the committee that the scheduled joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen on April 27th has been cancelled. This is the last meeting of the sitting Board of Selectmen. The public hearing is April 30th at 7pm to go over the Town Meeting Warrant. Our regular meeting will be May 12th at 7pm. The Audit Subcommittee meeting will be on April 30th at 3pm.

Chairman Kane said that he received a quote from Cook Company for the review of the Health Insurance Trust.

MINUTES: The minutes were tabled until the next meeting.

TOWN BUDGET PRESENTATION

James Kreidler the town manager presented the town budget for FY16. He said that it will be finalized by tomorrow. Chairman Kane said that he was pleased to see an increase in Veterans Benefits. James went over the revenue expense forecast sheet estimates for FY16. He also discussed projected revenues and a change in indirect costs of the enterprises. He said that this budget has a 6% rate increase for Sewer and Water users. He said that the transfer station receipts are down. The proposal for the transfer station is to have it close for one day. The worker who is normally at the transfer station for that day will be working in the public works department. There is no lost of pay for that employee. The local receipts went up this year. He discussed the following, the Sun Edison \$12,500 payment per quarter, the

\$35,000 Winchendon Housing Authority tax exempt pilot payment, the \$19,500 for the Animal Control Officer regionalization payment we get back from Templeton. Finance Committee member Maillet asked for a printout of the ambulance receipts. Jim went over all the expenses. The revenues and expenses match. He also explained the local receipts. Chairman Kane stated that the reason that there is less revenue coming in for sewer and water is because of the indirect costs. Jim explained the proposed \$290,000 payment from the infrastructure investment fund. He said this is to pre pay the note balance but to keep the remaining funds in the infrastructure investment fund.

Jim informed the committee about why the Town Managers salary is less. He talked about increase in the Finance Committee Budget which is because they now have the annual audit expense added to it. He talked about the reserve fund which was created because of DOR and how it has to be there until they are out from under their debt legislation. When the loan is paid the legislation has to unlock it. He also said that added into the budget is a part-time accounting clerk.

The Finance Committee asked the following questions about the budget. Chairman Kane asked about the data processing and changes in the software which has a budget of \$36,000. Jim Kreidler said that it is for work with MUNIS. Ulysse Maillet said that there needs to be a bridge between the Treasurer's Office and the Accountants. Ulysse asked about the police custodian position. The town manager said that it is only if the new police station is operational. Christian Orobello asked about the reimbursements of the police officers. Jim said that he is working on a policy change. Robert Guenther asked if this budget added to or reduced the street lights. Jim said that in cases of public safety you can have the street light put back on, every request hasn't been granted. Jim explained that snow and ice expense has been increased. Snow and Ice expense could be spread over 3 year. Ulysse questioned the increase in unemployment insurance. Jim said that the school department has asked for the increase.

The Town Manager explained that the DOR required the town to submit a deficit reduction plan. The school departments pro rata share of the deficit is 66%. Jim said that we are now \$300,000 above the minimum net school spending. The annual payment for the deficit borrowing is \$315,000. This is a payment of \$300,000 with an interest rate of 1/2 of 1% which is \$15,000. The legislation borrowing is short term borrowing in one year implements. Jim said that he will email the committee the warrant. He will also give them hard copies of the revised budget. Chairman Kane thanked the Town Manager, Jim Kreidler.

The Finance Committee discussed the school department budget format. Chairman Kane said that we need to come up with a format for the school budget that we want. Ulysse said that they know what we want. The information was pushed to the side, lost or misplaced. Robert Guenther said that we need to put the format into the policies.

TOWN FISCAL POLICIES This was tabled until the next meeting.

MEMBER COMMENTS None

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ulysse Maillet and second by Robert Guenther.

Kane(Y) Maillet(Y) Guenther(Y) Leroy(Y) Orobello(Y) Rossi(Y)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Dennis

Recording Secretary

Minutes Approved