February 12th, 2018 Minutes

Finance Committee Meeting

**Present:** Patricia-Lee Achorn, Anja Bernier, Arnold Cohen, Gordon Gladstone, Charles Goodman, Alexander Korin, Daniel Lewenberg, Ira Miller, Edward Philips and Hanna Switleskowski.

**Absent:** William Brack

1. **Budget Presentation Selectmen Sector Budget – Fred Turkington, Chief Tilden Kaufman, Chief James Wright and Eric Hooper**

Eric Hooper, Superintendent of Public Works, presented the DPW budget.

* There was a mild winter with usage of salt and sand and not much plowing.
* The Master Mechanic and Engineering Aid positions both have retirements coming.
* Gasoline has stabilized.
* The field maintenance funds received last year are still being used.
* A new sidewalk request at the Community Center is issued due to a safety need.
* Mitchell and Laurel sidewalks are starting to fail due to trees and other hazards.
* Water rates have increased by approximately 5%, dependent on which tier.
* A new water tank is needed on the East side of town.

Railroad issues were discussed by the Finance Committee members.

* There is a need for signs or a designated drop off area.
* Police agreed that the facility is vastly overgrown.
* There are major traffic issues at rush hour upon leaving the parking lot.
* No security cameras.
* Lighting needs to be improved to ensure safety and visibility.

Chief Tilden Kaufman of the Police Department, presented the police budget.

* They are a thirty-one-man department, currently down to thirty. One person is in the academy.
* Chief Tilden Kaufman will be retiring in April.
* Interim is about one year with field training and the academy accounted for.
* There will be money saved but overtime may be created too.
* Court costs, overtime and investigations are very hard to predict budget wise.
* FBI Leader is a three-week training. Most are trained at this point.
* Hosting training now at the new building saved money.
* Dispatch training is fifty-six man hours.

Chief James Wright of the Fire Department, presented the Fire department budget.

* There are twenty-eight full time employees and one-part time on call.
* Budget is primarily contractual increases.
* There is funding in salary and expenses to support the health and wellness program.
* They received $150,000 health and wellness grant prior.
* They have been implementing programs in the departments through the health grant they did prior and want to continue it.
* There is a need for the Train a Trainor program in March.
* There is $10,000 in salary and $15,000 in expenses due to paying tuition fees.
* Eight firefighters are in training programs and contractually are allowed $1,500.00 towards education.
* The public safety budget has been increased; it is the catch all account.
* They have three engines: 1992, 1996 and 2010. They are replacing the 1996. The undercarriage has significant rust.
* They are in the process of getting an undercarriage cleaner that you can roll under engine and will clean what’s underneath. They can then clean more frequently.

There are no more major changes in the Board of Selectman’s budget.

1. **Capital Outlay - Fred Turkington & Paul Linehan**

Paul Linehan, Chair of Capital Outlay Committee, presented the Capital Outlay budget.

* They voted their budget at the last meeting.
* $340,000 will be used for a replacement quarters for Civil Defense after the old Fire Department building gets demolished. It will build a new steel building at Sandy Ridge Circle.
* The Police department received vehicle replacements and cruiser computers paid in cash.
* The Fire department had an engine replaced at a rate of $750,000.
* Public Works budget consisted of new sidewalks, reconstruction, software, new vehicles and building maintenance totaling $2,116,500.00 in town borrowing.
* The School departments budget consisted of the 1:1 laptop program, laptop repairs, DW acoustics, furniture replacement, and district projects are Cottage, East, Heights and the High School totaling $583,635.00.

1. **Library – Lee Ann Amend**

Lee Ann Amend, Library Director, presented the library budget.

* There is an increase in network dues by a 3% cap.
* Without cap, there would have been a $10,000 increase this year.
* There is a request to increase to library and state travel for staff to attend more trainings.
* One staff member has requested staff reimbursement for professional development.
* There is one temporary position currently and one to be filled by the end of March to the end of the year.

The library’s current building needs were provided.

* Terrazzo steps are cracking due to the iron railings from 1914.
* The Carnegie roof is widening with a potential bat infestation.
* The air handler has aged out.
* The Community room has been flooding.
* The Carnegie floor’s beam is cracking.
* The septic system was built for only 194 people and will fail Title 5 if tested.
* The elevator is not ADA compliant.

The library has received a grant from the state and are number six on the list. They will hear by July 2019.

1. **Vote outstanding minutes: January 29th**

**MOTION:** by Alexander Korin **SECONDED:** by Hanna Switlekowski to approve the January 29th, 2018 minutes **VOTED:** 10-0-0.

1. **Topics not reasonably anticipated by the chair in 48 hours**

The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on March 12th,,  2018.

VisGov has the new format. There has been no response yet regarding the town’s IT team and moving forward with the website being updated before town meeting.

1. **Adjournment**

**MOTION:** by Hanna Switlekowski to adjourn **SECONDED:** by Anja Bernier **VOTED:** 10-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 pm.