

## MEETING MINUTES-WEST NEWBURY FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date & Time: Monday March 25th 2019 7pm

Location : 1910 Building 1st Floor Hearing Room

Attendees: Gary L. Roberts Jr., Chairman, Forbes Durey, Nathan Kelly, Jim Sperelakis, Brad Beaudoin, Jessica Knezek

### AGENDA

1. Joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen to review budget.

#### Budget Review

Archibald would like to keep the sidewalk, highway expense item to \$140,000 as in previous years(the proposed has a \$10,000 increase do to changes in catch basin cleaning regulation(once a year dpw has to go scoop out catch basins once a year, in previous years, the material was removed and disposed of, this year they want to pay to have the material tested for contaminants and removed by a vendor) Another cost driver is the loss of a previous tree removal contractor, with the newer quotes being significantly higher. Selectmen recommend setting this line item to the \$140,000 figure

Mill Pond has a revolving fund with ~\$5,300. FinCom had recommended a modest cut to \$2,100. After meeting with Dpw and Mill pond Committee, the committee does have a number of projects they would like to complete including replacement of pick-nick tables, replacement of an old gate, moving of utility poles and initiating of water quality testing. The Selectmen asked why FinCom recommended the cut, Durey stated the previous spending history was low and discovery of the revolving funds suggested that this cut would not adversely affecting the committee. It was also noted that ~\$4,500 in funding is still available from FY2019 which is available until the end of 6/2019.

#### Public Safety

Archibald asked about the jump from \$32,000 to \$50,000 for the police cruiser. This jump in price is mainly due to decreased funds available in the cruiser revolving fund. Starting in the 2020, the Ford models have physically changed and previous years cruiser equipment will no longer be transferable to the new models, therefore the replacement costs will be higher for these new vehicles. The current plan is to buy a 2019 model which would allow for some savings on these assets. Selectmen recommend dropping this item to \$40,000.

Overtime wages: It hard to predict this item because maintaining 2 officers for all shifts is tough because for all shifts, they attempt to utilize part-timers first before calling in a full

time officer for “overtime” but this depends on availability of officers. Archibald recommends reducing this line item to FY2019 level.

#### Animal Control Officer

Cost of converting old police cruiser

Conversion cost: \$1850

Useful life repairs: \$2,500

Loss of trade in: \$2,500

Replacement cost for front divider (which needs to say in Animal control vehicle)\$600

Selectmen Kemper is confident that the town will be able to get another 5-7 years out of this vehicle, making the investment of ~\$7,500 will be worth it as it may reduce yearly animal control costs by ~\$3,000 per year.

#### STM articles

Article #2 historic survey

selectmen: 3-0

Fincom 4-0-1

Article #3 handicap ramp

Selectmen 3-0

Fincom 5-0

Article #4 Brown Spring Farm

Selectmen: 3-0

FinCom: 4-1

Article #5 CPC River Rd Conservation

Selectmen: 3-0

FinCom: 5-0

Article #6 SRO Funding

Selectmen: 3-0

FinCom: 2-3 disapprove, this disapproval was mainly to highlight the disproportionate cost share West Newbury pays towards the SRO vs the other towns of the Pentucket School Region. The selectmen and town manager’s feeling is that this article is a “house keeping article” that merely reflects proper accounting practices where in past years the full wages for the SRO position were not accounted for as a portion is reimbursed from the Pentucket School District. The Selectmen did agree that we should look into what the true cost of this position is and what proper reimbursement to the town should be.

Funding: Free cash

Article #7 Voting machine  
Selectmen 3:0  
Fincom 6-0  
Free Cash

Article #8 Snow and Ice Deficit  
Selectmen 3-0  
FinCom 3-2  
Free Cash

Article #9 Mill Pond Emergency Action plan  
Selectmen: 3-0  
FinCom 5-1  
Free cash

ATM

Article #6 Water Dept Budget  
Selectmen 3-0  
FinCom 6-0

Article #7 amend 2017 ATM article for \$1.7M to include both the brake hill water tank and then chemical injection building  
Selectmen 3-0  
FinCom 5-0-1

Article #8 \$1.2M additional funds for the brake hill water tank and chemical injection building  
Selectmen 3-0  
FinCom 5-0-1

Article #9 new middle school/high school borrowing authorization  
Selectmen 3-0  
FinCom 5-0

Article #10 school stabilization  
Selectmen 3-0  
FinCom 5-0

Article #11 pension liability stabilization fund  
Selectmen 3-0  
FinCom 5-0

Free cash

Article #12 septic loan fund

Selectmen 3-0

Fincom 6-0

Article #13 Dunn property loan

Selectmen 3-0

FinCom 5-0

Article #14 CPC funding article

Selectmen 3-0

FinCom 5-0

Article #15 library and town building repairs

Selectmen 3-0

Fincom 6-0

Sunset Fy2021

stabilization

Article #16

Selectmen 3-0

FinCom 4-2

Sunset Fy2020

Article #17

Selectmen 2-1

FinCom 0-6- FinCom disapproved because the current vehicle has low mileage/usage.

Sunset FY2020

Article #18 Fire rescue

Selectmen: 3-0

Fincom 6-0

Article #19 senior tax exemption

Selectmen: 3-0

FinCom 6-0

Article #20 revolving funds: mill pond

Selectmen 3-0

FinCom 5-0

Article #21 revolving funds yearly renewal

Selectmen 3-0  
FinCom 5-0

Articles 22-23  
Selectmen 3-0  
FinCom 6-0

Article 24-27  
No discussion and either unanimous or unanimous with abstention votes from both Fin-Com and Selectmen

Article #28  
It was mentioned that the setback figures may change from 150ft to 100ft.

Articles #30  
Selectmen: 1-2 disapprove  
FinCom 3-3

Roberts noted that the citizen that proposed this article asked if it could be moved up in the warrant. The selectmen noted that the end of the warrant is where citizens petition articles historically have been placed at the end. The Moderator noted that at a meeting of town moderators, it was said that article numbers are assigned by lottery