

MEETING MINUTES-WEST NEWBURY FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date & Time: Monday February 24th , 2020 7pm

Location : 1910 Building 1st Floor Hearing Room

Attendees: Gary L. Roberts Jr., Forbes Durey, Brad Beaudoin, Nathan Kelly, Angus Jennings, Jim Sperelakis, Jessica Knezek, Wayne Amaral

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment
3. Approval of minutes
4. Review and discuss budgets and articles from the following departments:

A. DPW(Wayne Amaral and Corrin Flaherty)

\$12,000- would pay for 2-3 hrs 2 times per week. Vote 5-1, Durey dissenting, in favor of this addition.

Highway, sidewalk and trees- Durey and Beaudoin asked why the tree removal program, presented in 2019 is not included in this budget line item. Amaral notes that \$50,000 from a previous warrant article is still being used for 2020 and he planned to return for future articles once those funds run out. Durey and Beaudoin asked that because this is a yearly expense it should be included with the normal maintenance line item- which would bring the current 4.4% proposed budget closer to 9%. Some of this overage can be explained by a few items:

1. New storm water quality testing, \$13,500
2. Establishment of Tree committee, ~\$3,000
3. Town buildings and operating expenses- \$12,000
4. Overtime wages- a 100% increase compared to 2018(\$12,000 vs \$6,000)- Amaral notes that this is because he has certain jobs that he thinks shouldn't wait for regular work hours(like fallen trees etc) vote 5-1 approve, Durey dissenting

B. Library(Corinn Flaherty in attendance)

there is a proposed addition of a part time staffer for the library which was not included in the town manager's proposed budget. The town manager noted that this was mainly because the Selectmen did not have a majority in favor of increasing the staffing levels at this time. Corinn states that there is roughly 200 visitors per day. Currently there are 2 staffers per day and they would prefer there be someone to fill-in in cases where a staff member cannot make it.

Durey asked about the addition of \$12,000 for maintenance from DPW for the library. Currently a DPW staffer stops at the library for 1/2-1hr per day.
Vote 5-1, approve, Durey Dissenting due to \$12,000 for maintenance.

CPC(Vanessa Johnson-Hall of Greenbelt, John Dodge, open space) to discuss article for conservation restriction with Greenbelt taking ownership of the land. \$175,000 in

funding from West Newbury is requested. A total acquisition cost will be \$985,000 with funds coming from Greenbelt, Newburyport, West Newbury(proposed), Mass state grants(potentially). Dodge notes that this property has been high priority target for the Open Space Committee for the past half decade. Vote 6-0 approve.

Article 13- normal CPC appropriation article: Vote 6-0 approve, no comments

C. Emergency Management Agency

Vote 6-0 approve, no discussion

D. Fire Dept(Mike Dwyer)

Fire dept. budget was level funded. Vote 6-0 approve

Article #24- \$4,000 for replacement of water rescue suits- currently there are 2 small and 2 extra-large suits and 2 mediums. Vote 6-0 approve

Article#25- \$7,500 to replace 2 30 year old fans. No discussion Vote 6:0 approve

E. Ambulance(voted with fire) 6-0 approve

F. Finance Committee

Durey recommends upping expense line item for dropbox by \$500, to \$2,000 total to pay for dropbox fee and increase costs of printing. Vote 5-1 Beaudoin dissenting

G. Moderator

level funding vote 6-0 approve.

H. Essex retirement

vote 6-0, approved with no discussion

I. Revenue Projections

Article #28- funding shortfall for Essex Agriculture students from West Newbury, \$16,443 Vote 6-0 approve.

Article #29- There was a technical error in the transponder used for natural Gas for the public safety building, after this was identified, it was found that ~\$20,000 is due in to National Grid.

Vote 6-0 approve