

**Joint Meeting
Finance Committee
Selectboard
March 12, 2019
Town Offices**

The regular meeting of the Finance Committee and Selectboard of the Town of Whately was called to order on March 12, 2019 at 5:00 pm by the Chair, Paul Antaya. Present were Finance Committee members Dan Kennedy, Tom Mahar, Jim Kirkendall, Fred Baron, and Bob Fydenkevez; Selectboard members, Joyce Palmer Fortune and Fred Orloski; Town Administrator Brian Domina and Administrative Assistant, Amy Schrader.

Motion was made, and seconded, to approve meeting minutes of the February 26, 2019 meeting. Vote was unanimous.

FY 2020 Capital and Operating Budgets

Schools (continued) –The group discussed the difference between Whately and Conway substitute teacher budget requests and also questioned whether it was appropriate to prioritize Frontier’s track as one of the highest priority projects especially when there’s more critical projects to be done (e.g. Frontier’s roof).

Public Safety – Fire Department – John Hannum, Fire Chief, reviewed the Fire Department’s FY20 budget request. There was a brief discussion regarding FY 2018 expenses and why the vehicle maintenance line item was overspent. The group suggested that the Fire Department budget line items be adjusted to more accurately reflect actual costs. The group reviewed the Fire Department’s Capital Improvement Planning project requests. There was extensive discussion on the request for the replacement of 4-inch hoses to 5-inch hoses and the replacement of the siding on the fire station. The group discussed the deterioration of the metal siding on the building and asked John to obtain an estimate as to patch or replace only the areas that are deteriorated with metal siding to match the existing.

Public Safety – SCEMS – Zachary Smith from SCEMS reviewed the SCEMS budget and specifically Whately’s portion of that budget. There was some discussion around the SCEMS billing process, health insurance reimbursements, support from the Town of Deerfield and operating expenses. Zachary informed the group that the cost to operate SCEMS is \$1.6 million dollars. The Town of Whately’s share for SCEMS services is \$106,000. Zachary discussed his capital item request to replace SCEMS’s 2010 ambulance which will be paid for with retained earnings.

Cultural, Recreation, Services – Library Director, Cyndi Steiner and Library Trustee, Jim Ross presented to the group the Library’s FY 2020 budget. Cyndi discussed the budget and addressed why certain items were increased and some deleted from last year’s budget. The group had a brief

discussion regarding the Library's electric bill line item, funding of programs, grant funds, and community participation. Cyndi informed the Committee that the electrical increase is due to the operation of their new mini-splits. Jim Ross, Library Trustee, discussed the Library's capital improvement project request. Jim stated that the Library is starting the process to make its building ADA compliant and this will require the hiring of an architect. The design costs are approximately 15% of the total estimated project costs.

Brian informed the Committee that Tri-Town Beach's budget is still being prepared. Darcy Tozier, Cemetery Commission, will be asked to attend the meeting scheduled for March 26th to review the Cemetery Commission's FY 2020 budget. Jonathan Edwards, Recreation Committee, requested that the Recreation Commission's FY 2020 budget be tabled until the March 26th meeting. Christina Johnson, Director of the South County Senior Center, will also be invited to present the SCSC budget on March 26th.

Brian reviewed the Debt and Unclassified proposed FY 2020 budgets.

Capital Projects

FY 2020 Personnel Committee COLA recommendation – Tom stated that the Personnel Committee is recommending a 2.5% COLA increase. The group briefly discussed this item and decided to table the matter until the next meeting.

Items not anticipated within forty-eight (48) hours of the meeting - none

Next meeting: March 26, 2019 at 5:00 pm (joint meeting)

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Domina, Town Administrator

Document List

Joint Finance Committee and Selectboard Meeting Minutes dated February 26th, 2019
Public Safety FY20 Budget
Cultural, Recreation, Services FY20 Budget
Debt FY20 Budget
Unclassified FY20 Budget
Capital Improvement Plan (2020-2029) dated March 12, 2019
Personnel Committee Memorandum dated March 6, 2019