

Minutes
SELECT BOARD and FINANCE COMMITTEE
Town Hall, 5 Academy Hill Road
Monday, January 29, 2018 6 p.m.

Select Board members present: John O'Rourke, Chair; Robert Baker, Bob Armstrong

Others present: Alan Singer, Chair, Finance Committee; Roy Cohen, Tom Donovan, Andrea Beaudoin, members, Finance Committee; Ken Ouimette, Police Chief; Gemma VanderHeld, Ambulance Director; Dan Fentin-Thomas, FCAT; Tom Hutcheson, Town Administrator

John O'Rourke called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes

On a motion from John O'Rourke to approve the minutes of Monday, January 22, 2018, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.

Meetings Attended by Select Board Members

Bob Armstrong attended a meeting of the Capital Improvements Planning Committee. The Committee recommended all four Highway capital projects, also proposing replacing the Police cruiser and giving the current vehicle to the Fire Chief and recommending that the minimum cost for inclusion on the capital plan be \$5,000. Robert Baker noted that the Frontier Regional Building Committee was rescheduled to this evening, so he was unable to attend. John O'Rourke attended the Franklin Regional Council of Governments meeting; they are looking at options for a new regional communications system. They also passed the FY19 budget.

Citizens' concerns *None.*

Old Business

Annual Town Meeting warrant

Review and discussion of draft

Tom Hutcheson noted a new article for a police cruiser; a ballot question reflecting the borrowing article; and some minor changes.

Priorities for Direct Local Technical Assistance for the Franklin Regional Council of Governments

The Select Board prioritized the items they had chosen for requesting DLTA from the FRCOG.

Comment on draft marijuana regulations

The Select Board reviewed draft comments prepared by Tom Hutcheson. **On a motion from John O'Rourke to sign them, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.**

New Business

JOINT MEETING WITH FINANCE COMMITTEE, 6:30 p.m.

Review FY 2019 Proposed Budget

Public Safety: Police, Fire, Ambulance

Ken Ouimette reported on the only major change in his budget. The FRCOG has not yet set the fees for radio service for FY 2019, but the estimated amount should cover the cost for his department. Robert Baker reported a similar problem with radio fees, plus a slight rise in software costs. Also, one engine needs about \$3-4,000 in valve work; this should be partially off-set by a decrease in the need to work on the new engine, making the line item request rise just \$1,200. Finally, his cell phone costs now reflect the actual cost of service, which is about \$130/month, as his phone is also a portable office, with all calls and e-mails routed through it. Gemma

VanderHeld reported that so far this year, collections have been paid for all runs. Rises include training fees. She also requested a capital item; the Select Board referred her to Tom Hutcheson to create a proposal for the Capital Improvements Planning Committee.

Items Not Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting *None.*

Town Administrator update

Committees

The Capital Improvements Planning Committee met Wednesday night and voted to recommend all four requests of the Highway Department, including \$330,000 for repairing a bridge on North Poland Road. I am assuming this will be done with borrowed money and have included that language and a ballot question on the warrant. The Committee also noted a request from the Fire Chief for a replacement vehicle and noted that since the police cruiser is due to be replaced soon, the Police cruiser could be a suitable replacement vehicle for the Fire Chief when it is replaced.

Departments

We have received the first draft of the cherry sheets. The Governor's budget proposal gives two pieces of good news, which of course are subject to change: first, our assessments would go down \$56,254, from \$200,736 to \$144,482. Second, our local aid would rise \$46,817, from \$1,039,545 to \$1,086,362. This would mean a total gain of \$103,071.

As you know, there has been very difficult weather recently, with thawing during the day and freezing at night. This has meant icy roads, especially the gravel roads, and also potholes in paved roads as even small cracks are widened and undermined by freezing water. As a result of this two Highway trucks, with different drivers, have been damaged, one more, one less. One driver was slightly hurt but only lost a day of work.

Since the Town puts occasional items in the Visitor, we typically get a copy to proof. I noticed one article that had a misconception of how we were treating the funds reimbursed by the UCC after the tornado and let the Visitor staff know. At issue was the account to which the reimbursed funds were to be posted. I assured them that the funds were indeed going to go back to the Community Preservation Fund; the only question is how much goes to the historical preservation account and how much goes into the general reserves, meaning the general reserves of the Community Preservation Fund.

Concerns of the Selectmen

Robert Baker noted that a resident had a car that was parked next to the road towed during the night recently. Tom Hutcheson noted that the resident had gotten a warning the day before, along with the letter sent to all residents that had been approved by the Select Board. John O'Rourke asked whether all of the appropriate procedures had been followed, and Tom Hutcheson replied that they had.

Mail

John O'Rourke read a letter from Lieutenant Governor Karyn E. Polito congratulating the Town for completing two Best Practices under the Commonwealth Community Compact (Information Technology and a Long-Range Financial Plan) and asked Tom Hutcheson to post it on the website.

Announcements

None.

Next Meeting Scheduled for Monday, February 5th, 2018 at the Town Hall, 5 Academy Hill Road, 6:00 p.m. Joint Mtg. with Finance Committee, 6:30 p.m.: Board of Assessors, Board of Health, Town Administrator/Legal/IT, etc.

At 7:20, on a motion from John O'Rourke to adjourn, seconded by Robert Baker, the vote was unanimous in favor.