

Finance Committee

March 29th, 2023 Meeting

10:03am

*Meeting occurred both in person and via zoom (*zoom attendees)*

Members Present: Howard Goldstein *, Jim Newman, Tom Murphy

Also Present: Jeff Madison, Administrator; Emily Day, Accountant; Police Chief Belain; Jay Smalley, DPW Director; Fire Chief Simon Bolin; Gary Haley, Select Board

Minutes: Howard motioned to accept the 3.15.23 minutes; Jim seconded; vote 3-0, motion passed.

Budget Review:

Fire Department – no change to expenses or firefighter wages; Fire Chief requested to include the 5% COLA to his wages which would increase the budget by 1.7% (does not have a current contract and is stipend). Discussion concerning call volume and size of department: on average, the department responds to 34 calls/year; department currently has 12 volunteer firefighters.

Department of Public Works – overall increase to building and grounds budget is 10.9% (includes increase in salaries due to COLA and wage chart adjustments). Overall increase to recreational facilities is 56.7%; parking wages has been adjusted so that the wages only reflect parking attendance/clerk and an additional line item for bathroom cleaning has been added (\$30,000); Jay noted that a bathroom attendant is needed for the season (bathroom can not keep up alone with the volume of people); parking restroom expenses has been increase to \$23,000 for porta potties to offset overflow of bathrooms; separate line item for bathroom maintenance has been added (\$12,000). Minor adjustments to the lighthouse budget to reflect needed maintenance costs and decrease in expenses. Discussion occurred concerning the net effect on the town for operation of Lighthouse and alternative credit card machine options.

Police Department – wages increase includes 5% COLA; department is dealing with issue of hiring seasonal traffic officer (last year inability to hire someone resulted in the department patrolling the cliffs and in turn decreased parking ticket and traffic stop numbers); Chief's salary includes an added 3% increase (contractual) in addition to the 5% COLA; discussion occurred concerning average calls per year, temporary parking area at the Cliffs, recent trash dumping around town, and posting of a camera at the Cliffs; overall increase to police budget is 2.7%; department will have two warrant articles this year.

Next meeting: March 30th at 9:30am and April 6th at 10am (Emily will have a Free Cash estimate for this meeting). Jeff noted that within the past 4 years the expenses of the town have risen \$692,317 and the growth has only increased by \$72,000. Exercise had been done to dispel the rumor that the town has much development occurring across town and to open the discussion of zoning on accessory dwellings.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15am