

YARMOUTH FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Yarmouth Town Hall Room A

December 19, 2018

Present: Ken Mudie Chairman, Nathan Ladley, Jack Moylan, Robert Ciavarra, Brian Gardiner

Absent: Joseph Goldstein, Jessica Norwood

Administration: Christopher Dwelley-Assistant Town Administrator, Philip Simonian, Fire Chief, Karl von Hone Director of Natural Resources

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Mudie, Chairman, at 6:30 p.m.

1. Minutes: A motion to reconsider the minutes from September 28 moved by Robert Ciavarra and seconded by Nathan Ladley. Vote 5-0 and Jack Moylan abstained. A motion to amend the minutes from September 28 moved by Robert Ciavarra and seconded by Brian Gardiner. Vote 5-0 and Jack Moylan abstained. A motion to accept minutes from December 12 moved by Robert Ciavarra and seconded by Nathan Ladley. Vote 6-0.

There were 2 questions which related to minutes of December 12th that needed clarification. The question of discrepancy related to the recommended golf salaries and minimum wage increases. The second was safety concerns related to the condition of the tennis courts at Sandy Pond and their needed attention vs considering them as a future project.

2. Budget Review for: *Natural Resources*: Karl von Hone presented wage increases as a contractual arrangements and budget expense remain level. Grants have been obtained to offset budget. The department has had to reduce maintenance due to the increase in material cost and holding off on repairs on projects for over 2 years. A concern that grant funds are drying up and the purchasing of small seed products have become more difficult. The department has been enrolling volunteers to help with various projects. Mr. von Hone predicts that these issues are going to be become more difficult in the future.

Committee member asked about the removal of dead animals from town roads and Mr. von Hone explained the process that has been worked out between his

department and DPW which is a cooperative public safety effort to check the animals for rabies. This works well and has been successful and he noted that no rabies have been detected. There was concern about the increase the coyote population and the department has been working in conjunction with the state for the past 3-4 years around this problem and the hunting season has been increased until March.

The resource director indicated that vehicles were in workable condition at this time and he projects the need of 1-2 vehicles in near future. The need for one boat did not make Capital Budget this year.

There was discussion on wall reinforcement to the route 28 waterways at bridge areas i.e. Bass River as well as questions concerning shell fishing. It was explained that permit costs were increased but remain compatible with other communities.

Fire Department: Philip Simonian introduced department's budget expenses as level funding with a big shift from overtime to wages. These wages are to support the addition of 4 new paramedics. The chief feels the increases from ambulance revenue will support the increase in these salaries for the next 2 years then the department will address salaries with the finance department. A discussion of staffing patterns indicating coverage as 24 hours on and 24 hours off which is the same pattern used by most of the Cape Cod towns. An explanation of firefighters, EMT's and paramedic specific duties with some cross training was covered. The chief covered information related to call volume and response time that suffers because of extensive calls. The call volume this past year of 72,000 calls, 20 calls per day and on holiday weeks the calls increase to 35 calls per day which affect the manpower.

There was a discussion about differences in ambulance cost as it relates to Medicare payments, private insurance and no insurance and the need to use collection agencies. The chief explained that town studies have been completed showing it was not beneficial to use a collection agency so the department has opted not to use an agency because of the added cost which goes to the collection agency. Also there was discussion as to payment differences involving car accident and insurance company involvement.

A discussion about LOD and similarities of injuries that occur with police officers and fire personnel, which relate to the type of services provided to community such

as heavy lifting and physical engagement with some individuals. The proposed supplemental insurance should address needs for injuries, shorthanded staffing which has impacted the budget for the two departments. Questions were raised by committee related to needs for radios. The chief explained he tries to be fiscally responsible by being proactive and buying radios and including it in the cost of the vehicles and keeping up with digital systems, as well as having these systems be mobile in order to move them between stations. The chairman congratulated the fire department for the successful holiday drive which donated food to the food pantry as well as toys for tots.

3. FinCom Administration Items: C. Dwelley responded to questions presented in the past meeting related to golf and the superintendent's position as well as and the number of full time employees and their positions in off season, and whether there were other options for these employees. He informed the committee of his contact with the Scott Gilmore and that Scott was in the process of looking at the entire golf budget and bringing revisions to the finance committee.

K. Mudie gave an update on the schools. Carol Woodbury was proposing a new regional school agreement to be put on a warrant for both towns, and the formal request for recounts by the 2nd of January by each town. He also shared information related to contractual concerns of teachers.

Committee member had concerns that the Pickle Ball project was over budget which was receiving funds from CPA at the Flax Pond Site, these concerns are related to the increase in cost for repair from the approved \$275,000.- \$318,900, the CPA is set to have their meeting with the committee on January 22nd.

C. Dwelley gave an update on Barnstable Retirement Budget being \$600,000, over budget from last year. Also Vineyard Wind project was offered a second lease in the sound. The state will make the final decision on this project.

Next Meeting 1/2/2018 at 6:30 pm.

4. Adjourn Motion to adjourn made by Jack Moylan and seconded by Vote 5-0.
Meeting Adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly A. Bachand