

YARMOUTH FINANCE COMMITTEE -MINUTES of January 9,2019

Present- Ken Mudie,Joseph Goldstein,Robert Ciavarra,Jessica Norwood, Jack Moylan,Nathan Ladley,Brian Gardiner
Other Attendees- Dan Knapik,Rich Bienvenue,Ed Senteio

The meeting was called to order at 6:30. A motion was made by Mr. Moylan and seconded by Mr. Ladley to approve the minutes of 1/7. The minutes were approved by a vote of 6-0 with Mr. Ciavarra abstaining.

Presentation of the Municipal Operations budget was made by Mr. Bienvenue. This budget encompasses Information Technology and other technical administrative operations. The budget increase of 13% or \$97,480 was broken down into eight sections with the largest components being investments in technology upgrades and enhancements, all with an eye toward efficiencies and long term improved effectiveness for the town, One budget item which increased by \$23,000(Envisio and OpenGov applications) are necessary to the town and had previously been funded by grants.

In addition, various changes have been made to mitigate losses similar to the water damage of last year. Servers have been reduced(moving towards more virtual storage) and have been moved from the lower level of Town Hall.

Following some questions about cost-benefit to our technology investments,Mr. Knapik praised Mr. Bienvenue's work over the past year in his new multi-faceted role. Mr. Knapik also stated that in a way the "flood" was a blessing in disguise. The Committee also acknowledged Mr. Bienvenue's outstanding work on the Regional School Agreement data gathering.

Ed Senteio presented the Municipal Finance Budget which increased by 2.34%,most simply due to staff salary increases. Highlights of discussion on this budget included the vary favorable debt ratio in Yarmouth compared with other towns, some modest extra funding for a potential Fall Town Meeting,approval of the town land acquisition strategy, and deliberation over how, when, and with whom to fill the open Town Accountant position.

Following these presentations Mr. Goldstein asked that we consider at some point a town wide hiring freeze. This was offered as a suggestion and was acknowledged to have merit. However,the subject was tabled as possibly premature until determination of the final Mattacheese financing solution. In addition,Mr. Knapik noted that all positions are evaluated by Town Administration before being filled. Nevertheless,the Committee recognizes that this subject should remain open pending resolution of the many financial challenges facing the town in the next few years.

Finally,the Committee voted to approve the following Department budgets, all by a vote of 6-0(Mr. Ciavarra was not present for the votes):

Fire(Motion Ms. Norwood,seconded Mr. Moylan)
Natural Resources (Mr. Moylan,Ms. Norwood)
Community Development (Ms. Norwood,Mr. Moylan)
Municipal Operations (Mr. Moylan,Mr Gardiner)

Municipal Finance (Ms. Norwood,Mr. Moylan).

The Committee has asked for further review on Recreation and Golf. Police was deferred to another time.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Moylan,seconded by Mr. Ladley at 8:05.