

Minutes of the

# Weare Finance Committee

Wednesday, 2 October 2019

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00pm.

In attendance were (from right to left as seen by the audience): Neal Kurk, Matt Whitlock, Christine Hague, James Drury, Megan Thellen, Nicole Herbst, Tom Clow, Lori Davis, Tom Downing, Dennis Aubin, Keith Erf.

Tom Clow moved that the Finance Committee shall not hear public comments at its meetings. Motion passed unanimously.

Matt moved to approve the minutes from the 4 September 2019 meeting. Seconded by Neal. Motion passed unanimously with Nicole abstaining.

Tom Clow reported on CIP meetings:

- First CIP meeting. Benji Knapp gave a presentation regarding the DPW's requests.
  - Bridge replacement fund: fourth annual installment of \$105,000 to cover the town's 20% share.
  - Road reconstruction: \$500,000 (\$291,503 from state + \$208,503 from town).
  - Ten-wheel plow truck: \$220,000 (same amount as last year) to replace a 2006 Volvo six-wheeler.
  - International CV-series truck: \$86,500 to replace a one-ton 2006 Chevy truck (YTD maintenance costs \$5000).
- Second CIP meeting: Parks & Recreation and Fire Department.
  - \$19,000 for an engineering assessment of two sites, Eineson Field and Quaker Street, to develop a master plan for development of new athletic fields at whichever of the two sites is more feasible.
  - Fire Department is not requesting any capital expenditures for 2020 but did lay out a systematic ten-year plan for replacing aging Fire Department equipment and vehicles, mostly to be funded from the department's special revenue fund. Also, the department will be requesting two more firefighters in a warrant article.
- Third CIP meeting: Police Department. Primarily requesting two vehicles including a Chevy Tahoe, with intent to repurpose the existing Ford Explorer as the Animal Control vehicle. Keith Erf added that the police chief believes that the Chargers were a mistake and that the department should switch to SUVs, where each SUV will cost ~\$4k more than a Charger plus an additional \$15k for a new accessory kit, which cannot be repurposed from the cars.

Lori requested Naomi to schedule a presentation from CIP at the next WFC meeting. Naomi suggested that CIP could possibly see the WFC on 6 November, but it would be tight.

Lori requested Nicole to replace resigned Donna on the John Stark subcommittee. Nicole agreed. Lori confirmed that Tom Downing will attend the Selectmen's meetings.

Lori requested a report from the John Stark subcommittee. No members of the subcommittee attended any meetings of the John Stark School Board.

Lori requested a report from the Weare Schools subcommittee. Megan reported:

- Weare Middle School Limited Accessibility Project was awarded a grant of 80%, not to exceed \$5,344, with the remaining 20% to be funded by the town.
- Center Woods Vestibule Security Project was awarded a grant of 80%, not to exceed just under \$100,000, with the remaining 20% to be funded by the town. The project must be completed by December 2020. Lori requested Megan to find out whether the 20% will be taken from surplus.
- Lori requested Neal and Keith to find out whether the state's technology security mandates can go into the default budget.
- Full-day kindergarten is not presently intended to appear on the ballot.
- Lots of planning for the technology budget, to improve the detail of information presented to the public.

Dennis reported that John Stark High School has had no water and had to truck in 20,000 gallons of water. A new well is being drilled.

Lori requested the school subcommittees to find out if there are any contracts up for renewal. Lori requested Chris to check John Stark and Megan to check Weare Schools. Chris reported that the support staff contract was for three years and did not know about the teaching staff contract but believes it is coming up for renewal; she will find out.

The next Weare School Board meeting is on Tuesday, 15 October, at 6pm. The next John Stark School Board meeting is on Wednesday, 9 October, at 6:30pm.

Naomi reported on upcoming agendas for the Selectmen's meetings:

- 28 October: CIP, revenues, and default budget.
- 4 November: Police Department and library.
- 11 November: no meeting (Veterans' Day).
- 18 November: Fire Department.
- 25 November: Department of Public Works.

Neal wanted to know if there is a date on which the Selectmen's final budget is expected. Naomi said there is no set schedule but the first week of December is likely.

A long discussion ensued regarding whether the Finance Committee should scrutinize individual department budgets prior to finalization of the whole budget and warrant articles. Chris suggested that the WFC review department budgets as they are received by the Selectmen and call department heads in if the committee finds any objections or else wait until the full budget is completed.

Tom Downing volunteered to generate a preliminary timeline for the WFC's tasks with some help from Naomi.

Lori requested that WFC members who know in advance that they cannot attend a meeting should inform her as soon as possible in case a quorum cannot be met.

Next WFC meeting is set for Wednesday, 6 November 2019, at 7:00pm. There will be a presentation by the CIP subcommittee, and all department heads will be in attendance.

Tom Clow moved to adjourn. There were numerous seconds. The meeting adjourned at 8:34pm.