

# **Weare Finance Committee**

## **Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday November 17, 2021, 7:00 pm

### **Opening**

The Meeting of the Weare Finance Committee was called to order at 7:03 pm on November 17, 2021, by Tom Downing, Committee Chair.

### **Present**

Eileen Meaney – Town Moderator  
Naomi Bolton – Town Administrator  
Tom Downing  
Leah Borla  
Tom Clow  
Neal Kurk  
Bill Anderson  
Gary Evans  
James Drury  
Elisabeth Evans  
Jeff Spring  
Jack Dearborn  
Police Chief Moore  
Fire Chief Vizena  
DPW Benjamin Knapp

### **Approval of Minutes**

Unanimously Approved with modifications.

### **CIP Presentation**

Jack Dearborn – CIP subcommittee numbers 1 & 2 are essentially the same this year. Urgent and necessary. CIP plans a 6-year overview plan. Two long term debts – road preservation and the debt service is included in the CIP. Fire Department two requests, DPW has 4 requests, PD has one and finally the BOS has one. ARPA American Rescue Plan Act – a vehicle for Benji. With no ARPA 1,040,111 (.83 tax impact), with ARPA 780,111 (.36 tax impact). Expected \$900,000 from federal finds. Fire Department – cardiac monitor/defib upgrades. This will be purchased from FD funds not on CIP. Neal Kurk asked to define using the FD funds for the purchase. Chief Vezina explained that one of the units recently broke and they inquired whether the discounted pricing was still

available. The special pricing was not but there was another equipment grant program for up to \$50k for lifesaving equipment. The department applied for the program and are waiting for a response. The current FD budget can cover the cost, but the Chief believes there will be close to 100% reimbursement less \$3000. Gary Evans asked to define “units” Unit are the defibs. Neal Kurk asked if the money coming back will go to general fund or FD and why so much surplus. Response - It will go to general funds and due to good fiscal management.

Ambulance replacement is also requested along with a new Patient loading system as well. Gary Evans asked which vehicle is replacing (2009). Neal asked if the 12-year life is usual. Chief responded that about 10 to 11 years. About 20k in the last 6 years has gone into the ambulance. Tom C asked if the vehicles record hours and miles. Tom D asked about the condition and the up and down of purchasing a new vehicle. Chief – patient loading system is a part of the new vehicle. Ease of use and better patient care. The downside is reliability of the ambulance. The vehicle is at the end of the life cycle. Bill A asked about the upcoming needs of a tanker and rig and if they believe they will have sufficient funding in 2026. Chief stated he believes that it will be sufficient. Elizabeth asked if the \$350K was current price with supply chain constraints. Chief – yes, it is current.

Police – replacement cruiser (crown vic) is no longer in inventory. Request for the Tahoe to fit gear, etc. Chief Moore \$10k more due to the necessary equipment upfit to the vehicles. Includes Hotspot and spotlight. This will be a main patrol vehicle. They need one more certified officer to be fully staffed but not 24 hours. Bill A asked – six vehicles- what deficiencies will this fill? Chief Moore -Seven is the necessary number of vehicles. They have been short staffed so it hasn’t been too much of an issue. Now that they will be fully staffed, they will need the 7<sup>th</sup> vehicle. Neal – will they still be using all of the other vehicles? Chief Moore- Two unmarked vehicles for Chief and the Lieutenant. Tom D – asked the number of officers on duty on same shift? Chief Moore -Total at most 4 on days 8 on nights. Tom C- field trip to view and see and sit in the current vehicles and why they are not practical is recommended.

DPW – Two new 10 wheelers last 2020 price \$215, anticipated cost is \$260 with inflation. Once 6-wheel small dump truck needs to be replaced and the spindles are an issue because they are not being made any longer. Road reconstruction – paving, crushing, etc. See pamphlet for actual costs. Vehicles have exceeded their useful life. They are in poor condition. They have issues with trucks starting or breaking down. The issues are causing additional costs to be able to complete the jobs. The older vehicles are made with less quality steel. The bodies are prone to rust. The FC committee will be visiting the yard to view the condition of the vehicles. If there is a quorum of FC members it will deemed a meeting. There were no trucks purchased over a six-year period which put a strain on the DPW and the other vehicles. Next would be 2024 for an excavator. It is necessary for

culvert repair and road recon. Bill A – Further down the line 10 wheelers have better efficiency, could that reduce the inventory later? Benji- no because there are more roads. To order a truck there is a 12-month lead time. Only one shop in the NE that can build the trucks. The 10 wheelers are a short body and nearly impossible to overload. The 6-wheeler is the replacement of the one ton. Parts are extremely difficult to find. The vehicles are essentially used for plowing. Neal – Two trucks are noted but there are other trucks have more hours. Can the federal money be used to replace some of the other trucks? Benji – the plan was to ask for one truck per year to keep the rotation of trucks in good condition.

Current only long-term debt – long- and short-term debt see chart provided. All in with taxes \$1.19 with ARPA .98

### **Old Business –**

MTA October 27 meeting minutes. Neal requested for changes to add a colon and to add information regarding the new members. MTA minutes as corrected. 9 for 0 against. Table the remaining minute approval until the next scheduled meeting favor 9, 0 against

### **Sub Committee:**

Weare School Board – Bill A. discussed first pass of budget. 17.6 million 5.7% increase over this year budget. Health Care 17.9% increase over current year. Technology increase to cover new equipment. \$1.42 million in grants. The grants have been assigned already. \$792,000 to decide how to allocate. Budget workshop is 12/7 at 5:30 pm. They will come in with a proposal for all day kinder. Teacher contract and para contracts are up as well. Returned \$576,000 from Weare, \$550,000 from JSRHS. Liz – about \$882 difference from last year to this year. Neal – kinder committee unanimously approved to put in for full day kinder. There is not a big price tag due to funds that have been allocated.

Town –

Tom C. – Police budget – dispatch contract is up \$9,074 also \$3500 increase for storage and towing for evidence recovery, taser equipment batteries, \$5850. Body cams \$4968, \$7315 for protective equipment.

Tom D. – there are slides on the web site to review for the PD.

Tom C. – FD no difference between default and proposed budget. Library – difference of \$233. Parks and Rec - \$11,172 difference. Increases were outside services \$7,000 wages will be removed and placed as a warrant article. Increase in disposal fees and repairs and damages. Reassessment the tax rate went down but property values increased.

Neal – was there discussion of warrant articles? Tom C nothing has been officially presented at this time. If taxes increase a \$1, how much additional money does that bring in? Naomi Bolton explained the formula.

### **New Business:**

DPW visit – There will be 4 committee members. Naomi recommends posting the notice of meeting. Photos will be taken for reference for those who cannot attend.

### **Calendar Schedule**

December 15 is the next meeting the school presentation Weare and JSRHS. The meetings following January 5, 2022, to review town to complete prior to public hearing.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm by Tom Downing, Committee Chair. The next general meeting will be at 7:00 pm on December 15, 2021.

Minutes submitted by: Leah Borla, Secretary

Approved by: