

TOWN OF WEARE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 9-24-15

1. The Weare Finance Committee met at the Town Offices on Thursday 24 Sep at 7pm. Members in attendance were Lori Davis, Matt Whitlock, Bill Anderson, Keith Erf, Rochelle Pitkaniemi, David Recupero, Peter Mennis, and Russ Hammond. Also in attendance were Marge Burke from the Weare School Board and Gregg McDowell who had been a member of the Highway Garage Committee.

2. Membership. Bill Anderson advised the members that John Knox had contacted him earlier in the week expressing his regret that he could no longer serve on the committee this year due to a personal family issue.

3. Business.

a. Format. Chairman Davis, after discussions with moderator Foss, brought up to the committee the idea of broadening public access to meetings. This could be done by broadcasting on the local cable network much as selectman meetings are done now. Committee members shared the pros and cons of such a proposal; no decision was made to change the current format.

b. Budget Reports.

1. Town. Chairman Davis updated that the town budget process is expected to be completed by 1 December this year, which is earlier than in prior years. Increasing liability insurance costs will continue to have a major impact on the town budget.

2. John Stark School Board. Matt Whitlock reported the budgeting process for next school year will begin next month. The high school student population continues to remain relatively stable at 707 students.

3. Weare School Board. Like John Stark, the Weare School Board will begin developing the budget next month. Marge Burke also indicated there are two(2) contracts, teachers and paraprofessionals, currently in negotiation that are expected to be placed on the ballot for consideration by voters. She also discussed the desire to have a capital reserve fund in the SAU from which to draw for major maintenance projects.

4. Capital Improvement Program(CIP). Finance reps, at the invitation of CIP Chair Jack Dearborn, have attended CIP committee meetings each of the past five Wednesdays allowing us to gain greater insight into the justification by department heads for various projects. A summary of projects to be presented to the selectman and our committee was provided by Bill Anderson. Chairman Davis, who had worked extensively on the Highway Garage Committee, briefed members on the projected scope of the project. The CIP projects to be brought forward have been labeled as Urgent(U) or Necessary (N) with no additional breakdown of department priority. CIP Chairman Jack Dearborn, together with Department Heads, will be meeting with the finance committee at a later date to review recommendations and answer questions.

4. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 835pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 22 October at the town offices at 7pm.

Bill Anderson/Secretary