

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING 11-16-16

1. The Weare Finance Committee met at the Town Offices on Wednesday 16 Nov at 7pm. Members in attendance were Matt Whitlock, Lori Davis, Keith Erf, Steven Wallace, Neal Kurk, Jeff Brown, Gregg McDowell, and Bill Anderson. Also present were Town Administrator Naomi Bolton, Finance Administrator Beth Rouse, Fire Chief Bob Vezina, Board of Fire Wards Steve Roberts, Police Chief Sean Kelly, Public Works Director Ben Knapp, and Selectman Tom Clow.

2. Business.

a. Town Budget. Department Heads presented their 2017 proposed budgets. These budget requests are preliminary and subject to review by the Board of Selectmen. Changes from 2016 were discussed as follows:

1. Fire. Proposed budget of \$503.2K represents a \$56.2K (12.6%) increase over the 2016 approved budget. for Fire Dept and Forest Fire. The increase is primarily due to a proposal to expand paid EMS coverage from 7-5 M-F to 7AM-9PM seven days a week.

2. Public Works. Proposed budget of \$1,702K represents an \$11K (0.6%) decrease over the 2016 approved budget for Highway, Transfer Station, Water, and Sewer.

3. Police. Proposed budget of \$1,581.3K represents a \$110.8K (7.5%) increase over the 2016 approved budget for Police and Animal Control. The increase is primarily driven by personnel proposals to fill a vacant PT secretary position, change a prosecutor position from a salaried civilian to a uniformed mid level officer position, establishment of a School Resource Officer, and furnishings to meet storage of required records and police equipment.

b. School Budgets. Preliminary Weare and John Stark proposed budgets were distributed to Finance members. 2017-18 Weare School proposed budget is \$15.6M which represents a \$739K (4.97%) increase over 16-17. The John Stark proposed budget is \$13.7M which represents a \$491K(3.73%) increase over 16-17. The main driver in both budgets is personnel benefit costs. These are preliminary budgets subject to additional SAU review. Default budget estimates have not yet been provided.

3. Administrative. Next meeting is scheduled for Wed 30 Nov 7pm at the Town Hall to further review the development of the town budget. (Note: disregard previous notice for a meeting on 7 Dec).

4. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 11pm.

Bill Anderson

Secretary