

# WEARE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING 11-30-16

1. The Weare Finance Committee met at the Town Offices on Wednesday 30 Nov at 7pm. Members in attendance were Matt Whitlock, Lori Davis, Bill Anderson, Keith Erf, Stephen Wallace, Neal Kurk, Greg McDowell, and Travis Corcoran. Also present were Town Administrator Naomi Bolton, Selectman Clow, and Selectman Hippler.
2. Business
  - a. Police Contract. Selectman Clow presented the highlights of the police contract to be presented to the voters in a 2017 warrant article. The proposal calls for a 3 year contract through 3/21/20. Wage increases would be a half percent COLA and a 3.5% step increase in each of the three years. Employee contributions for health insurance would increase from 7 to 10 percent consistent with other town union employees. Part time officers would be limited to 30 hours per week with no benefits. The increased cost to taxpayers if the contract is approved would be 19.4K in year one, 35.2K in year 2 and 27.4K in year 3.....the cumulative cost increase after year 3 would be \$155.9K ( $3 \times 19.4 + 2 \times 35.2 + 1 \times 27.4$ ). There are no retroactive provisions for increases. The contract affects all uniformed personnel (except Chief Kelly) and includes the part time secretary position expected to be filled this year. History shows a police contract was not approved in 2014; a one year contract was approved in 2015 which dictates current salary and step structure; a proposed contract was not approved by the voters in 2015. Current steps include probation and 9 one year steps after which there are no step increases. Salary information provided by Administrator Bolton showed Weare officers are currently paid less than their counterparts in surrounding rural communities; approval of the contract would bring Weare closer to, but still not on a par with these communities. Selectman Clow opined that approval of the contract would be critical to hiring and retention.
  - b. Police Budget. Selectman Clow clarified that the proposed police budget for 2017 has been modified. The prosecutor position will remain contracted at a lower cost. Proposed School Resource Officer position has been removed. Other line items have been adjusted to reflect these changes.
  - c. Membership/Assignments. New member Travis Corcoran was added to the Town Committee. Chairman Whitlock will contact member Peter Mennis as to his continued status on the Finance Committee.
3. Administrative.
  - a. School Budgets. Weare School Board meets on 20 December (3 to 6 budget workshop and 630 meeting on a default budget). John Stark presents its default budget on 14 December at 630.
  - b. Next Meeting. Finance Committee will meet at the town offices 7pm Thursday 29 December.
4. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 903pm.

Bill Anderson  
Secretary