

**Weare Finance Committee**  
**December 6, 2017**  
**Minutes**

1. The Weare Finance Committee met on Wednesday 6 Dec at 7pm at the town offices. Members present were Lori Davis, Matt Whitlock, Keith Erf, Neal Kurk, Gregg McDowell, Bill Anderson, Jeff Brown, and Travis Corcoran. Also present were Town Administrator Naomi Bolton, Finance Administrator Beth Rouse, Selectmen Tom Clow and Jan Snyder, Public Works Director Ben Knapp, and Fire Chief Bob Vezina.
2. Business. Purpose of the meeting was to meet with Fire and Public Works Directors to discuss proposed operating budgets and CIP projects.
  - a. Fire. The committee had no issues with the proposed budget. The majority of the proposed increase is attributable to a full year of expanded EMT coverage. At the request of the committee Chief Vezina summarized how we got to where we are today with EMT coverage/payment. EMT costs are now paid out of the operating budget as approved by voters in a 2016 warrant article; they had previously been paid out of ambulance reimbursements. For the remainder of 2016 this provided EMT service M-F 7am to 5pm. In 2017 following approval of Fire's operating budget, EMT service was expanded to 7 days a week 5am to 7pm. There are no coverage changes for 2018; the budget impact reflects a full year of the expanded coverage and a slight hourly rate increase. Ambulance reimbursements are now placed in a Capital Reserve Vehicle Fund for Fire. Improvements in ambulance billing have resulted in increased reimbursements; for 2017 we have received approximately \$136K thru November; previous years were approximately \$120K. The new ambulance lease is being paid out of these funds. No major fire truck procurements are expected over the next six years, which will allow funds to accumulate. Fire and the town are considering a warrant article for 2018 which would allow the fund to be used for equipment as well as vehicles. Any approval to use these funds would still require approval of the voters by warrant article.
  - b. Public Works. The committee has no issues with the proposed budget. Director Knapp clarified that both fuel and salt line items, though higher than historical use are based on worst case scenarios for winter snow/salt operations. He also clarified the furnishing line item for the new garage is a good faith estimate at this time. Majority of the discussion centered on the proposed fire suppression system for the highway garage. Originally envisioned as part of the original project, it was deleted due to project funding shortfalls in the interest of getting a functional garage built. Adding it now would require warrant article approval of an estimated \$262K; this is a soft number still being developed by the board of selectman. Costs would include a water suppression system, cistern, and pump. The current garage will meet code without it. It will have a firewall between the truck garage storage and the work bay/office spaces. Chief Vezina

briefed the committee on NFPA standards, system capabilities, and response. Director Knapp also stated kill switches are being added to trucks to minimize the potential for electrical fires in the garage. Committee noted both Hopkinton and Henniker had catastrophic garage fires in recent years; Hillsboro also had a near miss. In the event of fire, insurance reimbursement for vehicles is limited to fair market, not replacement, value. As pointed out by Director Knapp, the major impact of a catastrophic fire is the inability to replace vehicles in the short term; this is due to availability in the marketplace. As we move forward and cost is narrowed down the town will have to determine priorities for this project relative to other costs.

3. Administrative. Next committee meeting is Wed 13 Dec 7pm to review Police budget requests. All subcommittee members are encouraged to attend town and school board meetings during the budget season. Check SAU website for school meeting announcements; town selectman meetings are normally Monday evenings.
4. Adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 835pm.

Bill Anderson, Secretary