

WEARE FINANCE COMMITTEE NOVEMBER 28, 2018

1. The Weare Finance Committee met on Wednesday 28 Nov at 630pm at the Town Offices. Present were members Lori Davis, Neal Kurk, Bill Anderson, Keith Erf, Gregg McDowell, Sue Morin, James Drury, Donna Osborne, Tom Clow, Megan Thellan, Tammi Hagman, Dennis Aubin, and Chris Hague. Also present were Town Administrator Naomi Bolton, Finance Administrator Beth Rouse, and Town Moderator John Foss.
2. Business. The primary purpose for the meeting was to be briefed by the CIP subcommittee chairman on proposals for 2019. Additionally Moderator Foss wanted to reinforce with the Finance Committee on the manner in which we conduct business with other town and school representatives.
 - a. Conduct. Moderator Foss addressed the committee and reminded the group that when we are dealing with other representatives to feel free to ask questions but do it in a respectful manner and not be judgmental. He reiterated when meeting with schools and town boards we are there to collect information and bring it back to the committee where there can then be free and frank discussion within the group.
 - b. Capital Improvement Program (CIP). CIP Subcommittee Chair Jack Dearborn and subcommittee representatives were present and accompanied by Department Heads (Police Chief Kelly, Fire Chief Vezina, and Public Works Director Knapp). Chairman Dearborn gave a detailed briefing on CIP projects for 2019. The briefing was informative and having department heads present was beneficial in follow up Q&A.. It is important to note these proposals are going to the Board of Selectmen who will be deciding which projects and any modifications to same are moved forward as warrant articles. All Finance Committee members were provided detailed project background materials and their tax impacts. Road reconstruction will be the main focus this year. Extensive research on all town roads was done by Chairman Dearborn and Public Works Director Knapp. Their review indicates historical funding levels have not kept up with needs and we are falling further behind in town road maintenance. Research reflects \$7.6M needed over the next 10 years to bring town roads up to %green+condition. It will be up to the select board to determine whether to increase the traditional warrant article (\$750K a year for 10 years), to load upfront funding with a bond proposal (\$500K annual for 10 years supplemented by a 10 year \$2.5M bond), or to continue status quo. A bond would require a 3/5 vote for approval, but would front end load \$\$ to immediately attack deteriorating road conditions while avoiding fluctuating crude petroleum costs in the future; the interest on the bond would be the main drawback, although interest rates are relatively low. How the select board proceeds on this issue will determine the CIP tax impact for this year and beyond.

3. Administrative.

- a. Town Budgets. The Selectmen will be working on department budgets during December meetings. The budgets will not be ready for Finance Committee review until January.
- b. School Budgets. With the delay in developing the town budget, the Finance Committee is moving forward to meet with the schools. At the request of the SAU we will be meeting with Weare and John Stark representatives for budget presentations on Tuesday 18 Dec at 730 at the Weare Middle School Library. Note: this is a change and as a result we will not be meeting on 19 Dec at the Town Offices.
- c. Committee Member Change. Ellen Dokton has resigned from the Finance Committee; Alternate Chris Hague was sworn in and is now the thirteenth member of the Committee.
- d. Minutes. Draft Finance Committee minutes for 17 October were approved with one modification to delete Finance Administrator Rouse from the attendance roll.

4. Meeting Schedule

- a. Finance Committee: Tuesday 18 Dec 730pm at the Weare School Library for presentations of Weare and John Stark School budgets. The regular Weare School Board meeting will start earlier than normal that day; check with SAU for the start time. All members are reminded to let Chairman Davis know if you are unable to attend our meeting.
- b. Road Reconstruction. A presentation on road maintenance and reconstruction open to the public will be held at 6pm Thursday 13 Dec at the Weare Middle School. This presentation will explain the process and costs for maintaining roads.

5. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 850pm.

Bill Anderson, Secretary