

Meeting, December 14th, 2022

Tuesday, December 06, 2022

7:13 AM

Attendees:

Bill McKinney

Frank Weber

John Arico

Kim Roberge (via Zoom)

Lorri Hayes

Sean Mamone

Sheila Sturm

Tim Berry

Howard Brown - Selectboard Representative

George Torres- School Board Representative (via Zoom)

Guests:

Ben Crosby - DPW

Agenda:

1. Meeting call to order at 6:31 pm
2. Opening public comments -No public comments
3. Interview Ben Crosby from DPW presented his budget. The first increase we discussed is an expansion of the sprinkler system. When the DPW garage was built, the decision was made to put in the minimum sprinkler requirements. When Primex, the insurance company, did a safety audit they recommended that DPW add on to the existing system. Question about the water tank and whether it will work for the sprinkler if the sprinkler system is increased. Answer was DPW will evaluate this with a vendor to determine if it is large enough. Question as to whether there is a law or code requirement to increase the sprinkler system. The answer is yes, to bring it up to code. BM disagreed with this statement and said that the change in the sprinkler system is not required to meet the code, the insurance company wants us to do this so as to protect the equipment inside. Question as to why the system wasn't included when the garage was built. Answer was to cut corners. Only areas where employees sleep require a sprinkler system. Question as to the town policy on bids? Joan will get the policy and share it. Questions as to whether it is possible to do only half this year and the other half next year? Answer is it is not fiscally sound. Projected cost is \$16,000 for the new system. DPW also proposes to replace transfer station office trailer. The projected cost is between \$10-20,000. DPW proposes replace concrete pads at the transfer station. The increase will be to the trailer and/ or concrete pads. Question: Should you build a structure rather than getting a trailer? Answer: It may be more practical to have a trailer. The \$17,000 is for the trailer. The pads were in a previous budget. We have not had a real quote on the trailer yet. Question: Last year there was an increase in the director's salary that was understood to be offset with overtime wages. Why are overtime wages being increased? Answer: HB said we gave the director a wage increase and now he is salaried. Increase in overtime is due to a full crew. Hourly wages have increased so overtime rate will be higher. We have also increased the wages for current staff. The overtime request also includes the 9% wage increase. Overtime hours are based on plowing and salting, and all

employees will do this work, including the director. Part time wage is for lawn maintenance and snow. 9% COLA increase across the board. DPW proposes an increase in sand and salt to \$110,000. Question as to how much salt and sand did you put out on Sunday, December 8. Can we get away with stretching the sand and salt more? Are there any alternatives out there that does it better? Are you using a materials management system? Answer: No, they do not. Question: Should we put in a system? Answer, the system cost about \$30,000 per truck to put one in. It would be worth an investigation. The current cost per ton for sand and salt is \$78.50. DPW is requesting an increase in pavement markings due to price per foot and adding a white fog line. The Selectman asked DPW to investigate the white fog lines due to lighting. Question: Is it possible to pre-salt the roads. Answer: No, not feasible because we are using the salt trucks. Question: Should tires be under the repair and maintenance line item? Answer: We have always had tires separate. Question regarding Culvert Pipes, we are budgeting \$10,000 when we have only spent \$60. Answer: There are projects lined up for the \$10,000 next year, we were unable to complete the projects this year due to limited staff. Question regarding Internet and Telephone costs. Internet should be the same as every other department. Answer: the director has contacted Comcast to discuss the cost. DPW was not getting basic cable. Business plan cost more. It is much more cost effective for the town to have a cellphone in the transfer station. Grounds Maintenance is not receiving a COLA. That is earmarked for tree trimming and dead tree removal. Question: Are there any warrant articles? Answer: DPW may request capital reserve for larger equipment. Question: Any big, anticipated projects that may increase the budget? Answer: Large project will be covered under ARPA funds. Concern as to who maintains the sidewalks, they are state sidewalks. The issue has not been resolved. For example, the warrant article for the road this year to the library should have the sidewalk for the road and who maintains it. Question: Can we have a sidewalk tractor? Has there been any discussion. Answer: No in-depth discussion regarding this has occurred.

4. Review and acceptance of minutes from December 7th. SS motion and FW second. One proposed amendment was made. Thereafter, roll call vote with all voting in favor.
5. Review of action items:
 - o Send 11/29 minutes to Joan jcleary@montvernonnh.us
 - o Request DPW come in next meeting- done
 - o Review DPW budget- done
6. New business- LH requested salary information spreadsheet. JC says most sent, if needed will add more. December 28 will not be a meeting date.
7. Closing public comment period-no comments
8. Next meeting: December 21st, 6:30 PM, at the Town Hall
9. Meeting adjournment 8:00 pm

Action Items

1. JA sends updated mail list to Joan
2. LH sends minutes to Joan
3. LH corrects the minutes to reflect the recommendations are from individuals not the committee.
4. JC invites the police chief to discuss his budget