

Meeting, January 18th, 2023

Wednesday, January 18, 2023

11:07 AM

Attendees:

Bill McKinney

Frank Weber

John Arico

Kim Roberge (via Zoom)

Lorri Hayes

Sheila Sturm

Sean Mamone

Tim Berry

Howard Brown - Selectboard Representative

Absent:

George Torres- School Board Representative

Guests:

Fire Wards

Agenda:

1. Meeting call to order at 7:00 pm
2. Opening public comments- No comments
3. Review and acceptance of minutes from January 11th- Minutes will be redone and placed in the draft minutes section of the drive. The committee wanted more specificity as to who made statements.
4. Review of action items:
 - TB will check with the cemetery trustees for the following information:
 - TB did not have a chance to speak directly to the cemetery trustees but he believes he knows the answers to the questions. He has reached out to the trustees and hopes to be able to provide more information next week.
 - Can we check with the cemetery trustees to describe their participation in developing the RFP for the Cemetery Road? Can you ask them their involvement in the design process? Will be completed soon. Last year, TB worked to draft the RFP for the road and made some changes to the original RFP including side walks and street lights. Meridian assisted in creating the RFP then. Joan, the Town Director, has 2 bids for the road on her desk now.
 - Is the road going to be warrant? Will be completed soon.
 - What analysis was used to determine that the new cemetery is not necessary until 2030-2032? Will be completed soon. Last year, there was no study done.
5. New business-

1. Questions about the Building Inspectors budget line items. LH asked the reason the wages here were only going up by 7.27% instead of 9%. The answer was that they will look into the line item to see. LH asked the reason 424099 was going up by \$200. Answer was that they need to buy new law and regulations books. Question as to the reason the books were not digital. KR said the current inspector needs to have the books instead of a digital copy. BM said there is a requirement to have the books available to tax payers. LH asked about the stipend that the was paid to the building inspector. JC said he is paid \$525 a week whether or not he inspects a property.
 2. We agreed to discuss the budget next week.
6. Action items:
1. JA will ask the library to present the 2022 actual costs
 2. JC has provided the list of towns that provide 100% health insurance that she received from the Lyneborough Town Director. The Selectboard does have a subscription to NHMA but has not reviewed the salary and benefits data provided therein.
 3. JA will ask the selectboard who was the driving force behind the RFP for the road
6. Interview Fire Wards- Jay Wilson (JW), Lucien Soucy (LS), and Randy Wilson (RW)
- LH asked the reason there is a firefighter wage line on the budget. JW explained the firefighters are not volunteers but paid on call. Whenever a call comes they are paid an hourly wage. JW said the hourly wage is \$14 for a firefighter, \$15 lieutenant, \$16 for captain, \$17 for the deputy chief, and \$18 for the chief. Employees are paid when they are called and when they are being trained. JW explained they are paid by the hour. LH asked if they were considering a 9% raise as all other employees received. JW said it was not necessary. LH asked the reason the mechanic line item is going up 12.5%. JW explained they were using a new mechanic that sometimes came to them and other times they had to bring the truck to Merrimack. The Rescue IMS has increased 20% due a necessary safety change. JW says there is a need to purchase more safety equipment including rescue repel roping and other such materials. There is also an increase in the cost of two vehicles due to a need to conduct a pump test. The mileage budget has changed after a review. LH asked if we know how many hours the firefighters may work per week. JW explained that it is difficult to know because for example, two trucks went to New Boston for training and they sat around waiting for New Boston to arrive. The trucks left. They were only paid the hours they waited for New Boston. JW explained the fire department has a land line. It is necessary for safety because if the power goes out a land line is important. JW explained that line item 419433 was reduced due to the service provider, Lucienne. Once the service was complete, less items were necessary for the fire department upkeep. JW explained that there is a need for the sprinkler system to be updated and serviced. JW explained there is a need to spend \$20,000 on all new breathing apparatuses because they want to move to a 30 minute apparatus from a 45 minute apparatus because it is more safe. SM asked if there were warrants the fire department intended to bring forward. JW explained that there are several warrants that the fire department will issue. One for a \$168,000 safety unit (name?). JW says they will seek a grant but if it is not granted they will need to replace them. They will also have a warrant for a new fire truck. JW explained he expects the costs will be up significantly higher which is what he explained during the last town meeting. JW

suggested that the two wheeler would be best used as a snow plow truck. JW explained that they will also have a warrant article for radio communications equipment. It is possible that Homeland Security will offer a grant in late 2023. LS offered the opportunity for us to visit the fire department to see what they do. The final budget number for the fire department is \$85,740. LH said that the tax payers should trust the fire department.

7. Closing public comment period- no comments were made
8. Next meeting: January 25, 6:30 PM, at the Town Hall
9. Meeting adjournment at 8:29 pm