

TOWN OF CHARLEMONT
FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes of Joint Meeting, FC & BOS, March 30, 2007, Town Hall, 9:00 A.M. to 11:15 A.M.

Attending: BOS -- W. Healy, C. Bellows, P. Fantuccio
Admin. Assist. -- K. Chadwick
FC -- R. Filoramo, D.R. White

Note: FC did not have a quorum and did not take any official action but did discuss various Town finance issues.

1. Overdrafts:

Selectmen reviewed three overdrafts – Memorial Park Electricity, Town Hall and Insurance. No action taken. Discussed new procedure for transfers from one account to another with approval of FC.

2. Franklin County Technical School:

Selectmen Bellows advised FC that plans for next year's Tech School costs should consider that there may be 11 more students attending the FCTS and possibly one more going to McCann, these coming from MTRHS. Transportation must also be considered. R. Filoramo stated he did not expect the number of FCTS students to grow anything near 11 additional students. It is noted that the FC did not expect the number of FCTS students to grow anywhere near 11 additional students.

3. Cleaning Account:

Selectman Bellows proposed transferring the account for cleaning the Police, Meeting Room and Highway Offices to the Highway Department account as the Highway Department oversees this work. No action taken.

4. Office Supplies, etc.:

Discussed whether to combine Office Supplies, Postage, and Postal Boxes into one Town Administration Account or to keep these separate for each Board. No action taken.

5. Finance Committee questions:

Wage increase for Town employees and Officials. At STM, increases were voted retroactively for the Highway Department and Assessor's Clerk. The BOS must make recommendations for pay raises for FY 2008 and for adjusting for the fact that some did not receive any raise last year. W. Healy suggested that a total raise of 5% may be considered by BOS.

6. Warrant Articles:

Discussed list of 6 Warrant Articles proposed by BOS.

No Article needed for Emergency Service Building Study at this time.

No Article practical for proposed Deerfield River put in/take out as no information available.

Resolution of E. Oxbow riprap – C. Bellows to discuss with Town Counsel whether an article is needed.

1. Old Burn Dump	\$ 15,000.00
2. Town Hall Pointing	22,000.00
3. Town Hall Engineer	5,000.00
4. Town Hall Furnace Zone	2,500.00

BOS prefer one article for #2, 3, & 4 above, Town Hall Improvements, \$35,000.00.

5. Yankee Doodle Days kids' rides request	1,500.00
6. Open Space Account	2,500.00

BOS will put #6 on the warrant. Present balance is \$7,232.00. Funds can be used for purchase of open space land. Discussed how approval to purchase is made. D.R.

White noted the recent high property tax rate increases for many in Town and questioned if this type of expense is appropriate.

7. FY 2008 Tax Rate:

Discussed Tax Rate for FY 2008, Stabilization Fund and use of Free Cash to offset this year's tax rate, saving Free Cash for next year when the Town may need Free Cash even more than this year.

The BOS Revolving Account balance of \$70,000.00 +/- must go in to Surplus Funds and then be certified as Free Cash.

R. Filoramo emphasized his belief that the bulk of Free Cash should be applied at ATM to reduce taxes. Town has obligation to use a significant part of the Free Cash to offset the tax rate increase for last year.

W. Healy also stressed that if there are sufficient funds, another \$25,000.00 +/- should be put into the Stabilization Fund.

8. Landfill Capping:

At the end of the meeting, K. Chadwick received a phone call from the Town of Heath. Heath just received notice that the State check for reimbursing Heath, Hawley and Charlemont had just been direct-deposited into Heath's bank account. They anticipate sending a check for Charlemont's share of \$620,000.00 +/- within a week.

R. Filoramo noted that with this matter definitely resolved, the FC will be able to put together a financial summary of expenses and receipts for ATM and begin the rough calculations of how much Free Cash to use.

Respectfully submitted, Douglas R. White