

Finance Committee
Notes
September 1, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:04.

Present: Ginger Robinson, Joyce Muka, Nate Messer, Michèle Higgins

Welcome to Joyce.

We wondered if Tom Raffensperger has been sworn in. Ginger will follow up on this.

We tried to bring Joyce up to date on our discussions for FY22, Broadband being the most confusing of the issues. We think that the best course of action would be to have Angelica meet with us to go over it with us. Another major concern is the wage/salary survey that should be forthcoming. We do not know what stage of development it is in right now but want to see it. We also recognize that one of the outcomes of this survey will highly likely bring about wage increases for some, if not all, of the Town employees. We also noted that the Highway department did purchase a truck which we believe came in at or over \$10,000, but we do not know if they went out to bid with three required bids. We need to follow up on this.

Our first topics for exploration will include studying the wage/salary survey, looking at and discussing the stipend issue and training on Vadar. Michèle reported that there had been some discussion on the Patriot system which the assessors use and Vadar at a recent Selectboard meeting, and she reminded them of our interest in training on Vadar and not to forget about us in any discussions revolving around financial software.

We voted on the minutes from our last several meetings with the exception of the meeting on June 1 with the Selectboard. Because we did not know that we were expected to be at that meeting, we did not have a quorum. We did not take any votes; we did not make any decisions, and while we have notes, they are not minutes.

For the minutes of June 11, Michèle made a motion to accept the minutes of June 11. Nate seconded. Ginger voted to accept. Joyce abstained. The minutes were accepted.

For the minutes of June 7, Michèle made a motion to accept the minutes of June 7. Nate seconded. Ginger voted to accept. Joyce abstained. The minutes were accepted.

For the minutes of June 2, Michèle made a motion to accept the minutes of June 2. Nate seconded. Ginger voted to accept. Joyce abstained. The minutes were accepted.

For the minutes of May 26, we note that we need to follow up to make sure that raises were given, specifically who received how much money. We want to make sure that there is a budget process in the PD. Michèle made a motion to accept the minutes of May 26. Nate seconded. Ginger voted to accept. Joyce abstained. The minutes were accepted.

For the minutes of May 25, there was a discussion about the PD and the FD. We support the idea that there should be more EMT's on the Police Department. We feel should have a more robust Fire Department and that the issue of pay is serious. Michèle made a motion to accept the minutes of May 25. Nate seconded. Ginger voted to accept. Joyce abstained. The minutes were accepted.

For the minutes of May 24, Michèle made a motion to accept the minutes of May 24. Nate seconded. Ginger voted to accept. Joyce abstained. The minutes were accepted.

For the minutes of May 19, Michèle made a motion to accept the minutes of May 19. Nate seconded. Ginger voted to accept. Joyce abstained. The minutes were accepted.

For the minutes of May 17, Michèle made a motion to accept the minutes of May 17. Nate seconded. Ginger voted to accept. Joyce abstained. The minutes were accepted.

We want to invite Angelica to our next meeting which we have tentatively scheduled for November 3. (We will also approve these minutes at that time. If anyone wants to see them, they just need to ask either Ginger or Michèle for a draft version.)

Our first topics of discussion will be to check into raises. Look at the expenditure reports and study the formats. We want to check in with the Enterprise Fund and get a "tutorial" from Angelica. We want to look at all the accounts, balances and funds - stabilization, building, highway, etc.

Ginger will ask Selectboard about Vadar/training and will also ask about the wage/salary report.

Michèle mentioned that in our budget process for the next year, we need to make clear to the departments that we are LISTENING to them. We are neither agreeing nor disagreeing with their proposals. She said that at least two departments seemed to be

under the impression that we agreed with them and then were upset that we did not recommend their requests.

Joyce made a motion to adjourn at 7:30. Nate seconded. It was unanimous.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 3 at 6:00 p.m.