

Finance Committee Notes
Feb 6th, 2024
Town Offices, 4:00 p.m.

Ginger called the meeting to order at 4:20 p.m.

Present: Ginger Robinson, Nate Messer, Pam Brown, Paul Hake

Ginger made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting on Dec 13th, 2023. Paul seconded. All in favor.

Paul asked about whether we must post meetings about subcommittees, such as the one to research leaving the school district. It was determined that subcommittees should be posted and Ginger would be posting the meeting.

Ginger mentioned that Pam would be operating as a school committee liaison for the Finance Committee.

Ginger confirmed she reached out to Diana at Warwick regarding the high-level financials of the Warwick leaving the school district. The subcommittee will be meeting on Thursday the 15th at 5:00 to discuss next steps.

The Finance Committee discussed the possibility of setting up a bylaw for fines for False Alarms in town. Pam asked questions about who collects the fees and where the fees go. It was understood that the funds would go into the General Fund and the Bernardston Police Department will bill on our behalf. Ginger will confirm how the fees are managed and ensure its clear in the bylaws. Ginger proposed sending the bylaw from Bernardston over to the Selectboard.

Finance Committee discussed some high-level goals and points for this fiscal year:

1. Getting the full finance spreadsheet established before any estimates come in. It was noted that this is nearly done with placeholders.
2. Setting up a schedule of budget reviews for the different departments.
3. It was noted that there were no new town roles planned for this year.
4. Selectboard is working on the employee evaluations process.

Ginger gave an update on talking to Liz Kidder about possible housing uses of the Town Offices building. Liz Kidder thought that it was unlikely that the local housing authorities would want the building because of the limited number of units that can be put in the building. Ginger noted that the deed is not so specific on the building's use. It was determined the deed was more about the preservation of the ball field than the building itself.

Paul to reach out to his company's landlord about the possibility of visiting the Town Office building to give feasibility feedback on a possible buildout or renovation of the space for other uses.

Ginger reviewed the Building Needs Committee spreadsheet and the Finance Committee determined a meeting the following week to visit the buildings in question.

Paul made a motion to adjourn at 5:50. Ginger seconded. All in favor.

APPROVED