

Town of Leyden
Finance Committee Notes
Town Offices
March 5, 2024

Present: Ginger Robinson, Nate Messer, Pam Brown

Absent: Paul Hake

Guests: Carey Barton, Fire Chief; Tom Raffensperger, Captain

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m.

Pam moved to accept the minutes from February 26, 2024, Nate seconded, all in favor.

Chair update:

The Chair has not received an official update regarding potential discrepancy in property card for 404 Glen Road.

The state DLS will not be coming to train the Selectboard on Monday, March 11th. They hope to schedule a time with the committee in the next several months.

The Building Needs Committee will be presenting to the Select Board on Monday, March 11th at the regular meeting time and Finance Committee members are asked to attend.

Thursday, March 7th there will be a three town joint meeting for the Selectboards and Finance Committees of Leyden, Bernardston and Northfield at 6:30 p.m. at the Bernardston Senior Center. Pam and Nate are unable to attend. Ginger will be in attendance.

Ginger is working on scheduling the remaining departments to meet with the finance committee. The *tentative* schedule so far is as follows:

Tuesday, March 12- Coalition on Aging, Board of Health

Tuesday, March 19- Town Clerk

Tuesday, March 26- Municipal Coordinator

Carey Baron, Fire Chief and Tom Raffensperger, Captain presented the Fire Department and EMS budget

Thanks to our legislators, Senator Comerford and Rep. Blais, the Town received permission from the state Inspector General's office to use emergency procurement procedures allowing for unsealed bids for the purchase of the mini pumper. The most recent RFP put out by the Town did not receive any bids and \$100,000 of the \$350,000 is only available until June 30, 2024. The Department is confident that it will be able to purchase the mini pumper this spring.

Once that purchase is made, they will purchase the brush truck with remaining funds from the capital funds that are allocated.

The department will be working on an annualized equipment and vehicle budget so that the costs can be budgeted annually and will bring back to the finance committee in a few weeks.

The Public Safety Clerk is budgeted for \$6,500 in a different part of the town budget and can be removed from the FD/EMS budget.

Funds for the EMS Oversight Consultant needs to be added to the budget. The cost for this will be brought back to the finance committee as soon as possible.

A stipend for an Assistant Chief needs to be added to the budget. The department will use state stipend data for this position in Towns of similar size for guidance on the amount.

The need for a radio repeater was discussed. There is a possibility that this need may be addressed through funds that are already appropriated. There also may be other technological ways to meet this need and the department will get back to the finance committee if additional funds are needed for this.

The EMS SUV has electrical and brake problems and no longer works. There is consensus that this aging vehicle is not worthy of additional repair expenditures. There is a possibility that the department may be able to receive a used vehicle from the Bernardston Police Department.

The inadequacy of the present Fire Department Building was discussed. The height of the doors is lower than many of the fire trucks are now built. There also is no vehicle exhaust system, as required by NFPA standards and the structure of the roof prevents a modern vehicle exhaust system from being installed.

It was agreed that additional details of the Fire Department and EMS budget will be provided to the finance committee including costs for the Assistant Chief and the EMS Oversight Consultant in the coming weeks/months.

Ginger moved that the meeting be adjourned at 5:55 p.m., Pam seconded, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Brown

