

Finance Committee Notes
April 2nd, 2024
Town Offices, 4:00 p.m.

Ginger called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Present: Ginger Robinson, Nate Messer, Pam Brown, Paul Hake, Michele Giarusso, Bill Brooks, Katherine DiMatteo, Erica Jensen

Nate made a motion approve the minutes from the previous meeting on March 26th, 2024. Pam seconded. All in favor.

Chair updates general updates including:

- Ginger is going to email the Selectboard about the 404 Glen Rd property to put it in as an official notice about this location.
- Ginger will follow-up with Jessica Sizer (DLS) about the revenue forecasting.

The Finance Committee discussed the Highway department budget for 2025. Bill gave an overview of the loader they are looking to get from John Deere. They got an updated quote from Sourcewell. With the customization of the loader they need, the cost of the loader dropped to \$228,000. The Finance Committee discussed the highway stabilization account which currently holds \$199,080. The Finance Committee discussed taking the remaining \$28,920 out of free cash.

Bill and Ginger updated the draft Leyden Capital Plan with the latest equipment, and years, the Highway Department has.

The Finance Committee and Bill discussed the slight rate increase for 2025 with the Selectboard members present. It was reiterated that the salaries for individuals would be managed by the Selectboard.

Nate asked Bill about the Municipal Assistant support that Bill has been receiving. Bill has received help with bill pays, responding to emails and more and was grateful for the support. He also has support for updating the web site with news and reports which saves him time.

Bill and Nate discussed the need to keep the old 2005 Loader. Bill noted that, given the age of the loader, there would not be much value in selling it. He estimated at \$20k or less. Bill would like to keep the old loader in a small to-be-built shed by the highway building. Erica asked about getting a budget for the building materials needed for the cover that would be built for the Loader.

Nate asked, as the Finance Committee has been asking others, what Bill's office needs are and whether there is room available to share space. Bill is open to discussing this but would want a separate way for others to enter their office without having to walk through the Highway Department's office.

Ginger asked about Chapter 90 money and what the funders were going to be used for. Bill talked about the new paving jobs that will be done in town with it. Ginger asked if it could be used for the Loader. Bill noted it's possible but would prefer to keep the money for paving as the town has been doing for years. But Bill is going to consider using some of the Chapter 90 funds for some of the additional Loader costs that have not been saved in the current stabilization funds.

The Finance Committee had additional conversations about capital plans and the Stabilization accounts. No additional decisions were made.

Ginger made a motion to adjourn at 6:36. Nate seconded. All in favor.

APPROVED