

Bernardston Finance Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes February 6, 2023

Town Hall Bernardston

Called to order at 6:31pm

Present; (Chair) Jane Dutcher, Brian Hervieux, Stephen Nestanpower, Jody Coleman.

Selectboard members present; Brian Keir, Stan Garland and Ken Bordewieck.

Tree Warden Brad Bordewieck has joined to discuss his budget at 6:54pm.

No Minutes to approve from January 30, 2023 meeting.

Jane has asked to be briefed on the last meeting and Jody has filled her in.

Jane had started a discussion on the Senior Center capital improvements budget. It has been determined that further discussion is necessary when the director could be present.

The Recreation Budget will need further review, (received budget tonight). Things to discuss with the director is the new position, a part time Director of Summer and Winter Rec.

A review of the Free Cash Certificate Certified at \$116,046.

- 1) It is estimated that \$191,025 of Real Estate tax is unpaid.
- 2) Other receivables and overdrawn accounts need further discussion.

Tree Warden budget review and discussion;

- 1) A review of work done and work that still needs to be done due to recent high winds and storms. About 80 trees still need to be cleaned up. About 90% of those are private trees that fell onto town roads.
- 2) Stan Garland had asked about the increase in Payroll. Brad had said the increase was due to more hours being needed and not due to any increase in pay. Although a future discussion on the increase of pay will take place at a later date.
- 3) An increase in expenses is due to an increase of the cost of materials to do the job.
- 4) Brad has indicated that our wood chipper is in pretty rough shape. It has been welded 3 times now and can now only take small limbs. A new one would cost somewhere in the \$140K to \$200K range and a used one would run in the \$50K to \$60K range.

5) Stan has directed Brad to begin to look for some used ones and present that to the Town.

Brian Keir has given us an update on the PVRSD Budget. Version 7 is the latest budget to review. There is a public hearing on the budget on February 9, 2023 at 6:00pm at Pioneer in the Kiva.

A review of the Levy Limit Calculation was had.

Stan has given us an update on the FRCOG. 4% raises were proposed and the assessments did not increase. The accountant has gone up 5.5% and the CPHS has gone up 4.3%.

Next Meeting scheduled for February 13, 2023 at 6:30pm in the Town Hall, where it is scheduled to have the FCRTS will present their budget.

Meeting is adjourned at 8:09pm.

Submitted by Brian Hervieux.