

Bernardston Finance Committee

Meeting minutes 3/20/2023

Called to order at 6:39pm

Present; Jane Dutcher, Brian Hervieux, Stephen Nestanpower, Jody Coleman

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

Also present, Police Chief Jim Palmeri

Review of minutes from 3/13/2023

Moved by Ken and 2nd by Jody to approve minutes as corrected.

Review of the Police Dept. budget with Chief Palmeri.

- 1) It is learned from the budget presentation that Bernardston will be responsible for 83% of budget and in cooperation with Leyden, Leyden will be responsible for 17%.
- 2) Officer Weaver needs to pass physical and log 200 hours of training and he will be certified under the new State guidelines.
- 3) Mr. Palmeri indicates the call volume in Leyden is low.
- 4) Leyden will also pay their portion of insurances and other associated costs.
- 5) As a result of the partnership with Leyden, Bernardston's budget decreases from FY 23'.
- 6) Any extra costs such as from car accidents and any requests they make, Leyden will pay all administrative costs associated with them.
- 7) A discussion from Mr. Keir was had about the stipends and raises and the concern that Bernardston will be paying 83% of those that Leyden should pay.
- 8) Jane wants to make sure that the accounting is correct and in order.
- 9) Jane questioned the increase in price of gasoline and whether it considers the new tank to be installed at the Highway Dept.
- 10) Jane had asked about the new Police Cruiser through a Grant and a regularly scheduled replacement. Mr. Palmeri indicated that Leyden is buying a new cruiser for the Police Dept.
- 11) Stephen had asked about the new Traffic Solutions digital sign and Mr. Palmeri had stated that Leyden is paying for that.

Town Clerk Chris Wysk has brought to our attention some incorrect information in a previous meeting's minutes. A discussion was had about the changes. It was determined by the committee to make some changes. It was moved by Stephen and 2nd by Jody and voted unanimously to keep line 3 as original and make the changes to the other requests.

Committee schedule was reviewed and the Library and the Recreation Committee are on the schedule for 3/27/2023.

A review of Budget worksheet #4. The Board of Health budget is missing. Jane has begun to move some of the figures to the recommended column.

Mr. Garland has moved we put 10K into the Grant Writers budget and carry over what is currently there, it was 2nd by Mr. Bordewieck and passed unanimously.

A review of the landfill monitoring memo and its fees, as well as a possible 30-year extension of the monitoring. The Selectboard will bring this to Lou Bordeaux's attention and have him reach out to our State Rep's and Senators.

A memo from the Mosquito Control District was reviewed. It has indicated that we have some past due invoices and the Selectboard will be looking into this.

A review of the Recreation Committee's budget brought the need to discuss this with Jennifer Stennes, the committee's Chair.

Mr. Bordewieck and Ms. Dutcher gave the committee an update on a Town Accountant job description. They had met with the Town of Ashfield and discussed this at length. Ashfield's accounting is worse off than Bernardston's. It was requested of the FRCOG that Kala no longer be the Town's accountant. The FRCOG did not give us an alternative. Further details will be sought. This discussion will continue.

Our next meeting will be on 3/27/2023 at 6:30pm in the Town Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07pm.

Respectfully submitted

Brian Hervieux