

Town of Ashby, Massachusetts

Finance Committee Meeting

February 26, 2019

Begin: 7:35 (Sharon sets up the projector)

Present: Kevin Stetson (Chair), Kathy Panagiotes, Sharon Stetson, Liryc Donald, Bob Hanson (Town Administrator), Jennifer Collins (Assistant Town Administrator).

Guests: Cory Harju, Gary Asher, Nancy Catalini, Tiffany Call, Linda Stacy, Rick Metcalf, Tricia Foster, Terri Cantor, Alan Pease, Angela Jack, Mark Lapham, Roberta Flashman, Chief Fred Alden

Minutes not reviewed; tabled until next meeting R/T time.

Discussion:

- **RFT: 19-06** Requested: 12,000.00 (Bob and Jennifer). Legal counsel line needs increased funding R/T legal needs for arbitration, union negotiations. Balance is 4,345.17 for FY19 unanimous APPROVED 12,000
 - **BOH Rick Metcalf** Requests increase of 5%; 11,500. With new line item Rabies Testing 420. New position of Animal Inspector (April Alden)
 - **Planning Board; Alan Pease, Terri Cantor, Tricia Foster:** request increase of agents budget from 10,000 to 12,000. It is a contracted position, no benefits, person has been invaluable as a grant writer, Pease notes. The increase will be from 35/hr to 40/hr.
 - **Library: Angela Jack, Mark Lapham, Roberta Flashman:** estimate for repairs to library will be done Friday. Requests 1.5% salary increase across the board, and increase page rate to 12.00/hr.
 - **COA: Cory Harju, Linda Stacy, Gary Asher, Nancy Catalini;** Request is to increase director hours to 16; 11 hours to be paid by town, 5 by grant. The number of persons over 65 in Ashby currently is 587. In the 60-64 group is 323. The director is working with the town nurse, fire and police to assist various townfolk that require more assistance
 - **Police Department:** requests; increase of 1.5%, join NEMLEC (dues 7,000 + training = 8,000, reviewing needs for new and updates to cruisers, adding cell phones to cruisers, dispatch budget. Regionalization continues to be in discussion.

Adjourned: 9:45

Next Meetings: March 26, April 9 and 23

Kathy Panagiotes

Secretary