

Town of Ashby, Massachusetts

Finance Committee Meeting

March 12, 2019

Begin: 7:37

Present: Kevin Stetson (Chair), Kathy Panagiotes, Sharon Stetson

Guests: Cory Harju, Gary Asher, Linda Stacy, Steve Beauregard, Jessi Johnson, Lil Whitney

Minutes of February 26 reviewed; accepted with corrections

Discussion:

HIGHWAY: many vehicles have deficiencies; will need to replace dump truck soon (\$190,000), one truck cannot be on the road; at present 4 trucks are available for the road. At present, supervisor, foreman, 2 laborers and mechanic. There are 3 contractors. Municipalities can only lease vehicles for 3 years. Highway has Chapter 90 surplus of 400-500 thousand, to be used for road repair. (Trucks can be repaired using this money). Cost of re-paving a road is \$200,000 per mile. Cost of sand: March 2019 \$15-24 /ton. Salt: 49.50/ton

Steve would like a truck or to fill his 6th position. He could keep two crews working around town, now only one crew goes out. No policy of vacation/personal time. A new position would start at 18.60, union wage; clothing allowance is 800/yr. back hoe is the most used piece of equipment. FinCom suggests to TA and BOS to review needs of highway buildings.

COA, Cory Harju; has been to 3 BOS meetings, and was sent back to FinCom to discuss increasing budget to 571 hours = 8959.00 for FY20. Director of COA reports directly to the Council on Aging and the MA Council on Aging. Kathy will send an e-message to TA and BOS to clarify what Cory needs. A position description may need to be written.

RFT: 19-07: legal costs: February charges for labor counsel. 6000.00
APPROVED unanimous

Adjourned: 10:10pm

Next Meetings: April 9 and 23

Kathy Panagiotes

Secretary