

WASHINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

December 14, 2015

Meeting was called to order at 7:07p.m.

In Attendance: Kent Lew, Dick Spencer, Mike Burke, and David Weissbrod

OLD BUSINESS

1. Finance committee meeting minutes from November 9, 2015, as amended, were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Transfer from Reserve Account to Cover Insurance Shortfall

Voted to transfer \$7,500.00 from Reserve Fund to cover Insurance shortfall.

2. Proposal to Streamline Recurring Monthly Bills Procedure

With Dan Parnell present, Committee discussed process to streamline how Utility Bills, in general, are handled upon receipt. Basic change involves submittal to Dan rather to administrator's office, and then to selectmen. Dan said he will discuss this proposal directly with selectmen later tonight.

3. MGL Ch. 32B §9A -- Post-Employment Insurance

Discussed option to pay ½ of health insurance for town employee retirees. To qualify, a person needs at least 10 years of service and needs to be at least 55 years old to retire. Our discussion and questions covered a wide range of issues, including: the exact definition of 'eligibility', eligibility for dependent coverage, applicability of prior years service with other state municipalities, requirement of hours per week, effect of holding multiple positions, as well as effect of becoming Medicare eligible. Also, can we adjust parameters (example, age 65 vs. 55)? We need more information. Dave will investigate and report back to Committee.

4. Request to Increase Poll Workers & Custodian Pay Rates

a. Poll Workers Rate:

Determined that the Poll Workers have not had a raise in a number of years. Present rate is set at \$9.00 per hour for five poll workers @ 13 hours each for General Elections, and for four workers @ 2 hours each for primary elections.

WASHINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

December 14, 2015- Continued

4. Request to Increase Poll Workers & Custodian Pay Rates (Continued)

Unresolved question: Rumor: State is looking into changing manning requirements at Polling Stations?

b. Custodian Pay Rate

Determined that the custodian's last pay increase was in FY14 for 0.25 cents per hour, for an hourly rate of \$12.59.

We agreed to look at COL increases for FY17.

5. CBRSD Update

The big news: Town of Cummington says it wants OUT of the CBR School District. Given that OP Ed-Health is an unfounded liability and Cummington comprises 4 and 1/2 percent of school budget, we need to determine Cummington's fair share. Dick mentioned he is on a committee looking at this and other related issues. He says it's a complicated process and basically Cummington has to first 'buy its way' out of the district, and at least five of the remaining towns need to approve the plan going into effect FY17. A Contingency Budget may be the most likely option.

6. Any (Other) New Business

Wired West Problems discussed. More information is forthcoming. Stay tuned.

Finally, we recently received a 'stumpage' letter from DCW for FY16, with the town receiving 8% of total, or \$1,500.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40.

Respectfully,

David Weissbrod, Clerk