

WASHINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

November 14, 2016

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm.

In Attendance: Kent Lew, Dick Spencer, Sean Connors, and David Weissbrod

OLD BUSINESS

1. Finance committee meeting minutes from October 17, 2016 were approved as amended.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Review of FY17 First Quarter Expenditures

Overall expenditures for first quarter are on target overall, with a few areas of interest as follows.

A. Selectmen expenses are ahead of schedule. Kent said he'd distribute a copy of the printout to alert them.

B. Assessors expenses are ahead of schedule. We suspect that the software dues were applied to this line item, rather than to the Assessors Computer Service line item, which is significantly under-run. (Kent mentioned that Dan is not here tonight but he will discuss this with him soon.)

C. Tax Collector expenses are ahead of schedule. This over-run is probably due to the recent real estate tax billing process. With Sue's (former Asst Tax Collector) departure there may be some picking up of loose ends. We need to have a trained back-up/replacement. Our Treasurer is being cross-trained.

D. Conservation Comm expenses are ahead of schedule, although given the committee's budget, it is a low dollar amount.

E. Town Hall Repair & Maintenance expenses are ahead of schedule. Are some expenditures that should be applied to the Town Building Operating Expenses, which is under-running, being charged to the Repair & Maintenance Account?

F. Highway Expenses. In general doing good. It looks like the purchase of the Polar Flex Blades is not reflected in the report.

G. Police Dept Telecomm is under-running (\$0.00 expenditures). Kent said that this account was credited \$3,000, which is being applied to this year's \$4,512 budget. He noted we need to remember to take this credit into account when we do next year's budget.

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1. Review of FY17 First Quarter Expenditures (Continued)

H. Transfer Facility Maintenance is over-running. The purchase of a new metal compactor bin (\$7,000) accounts for most of it. New signage may have also contributed. We should plan to transfer funds from the Reserve Fund in the spring. By then we will have more details. It was also noted that we would probably need a new compacter next FY.

Sean asked about availability of any Chapter 90 funds for the remainder of this year. Kent said that most of it will be used for bridge/culvert work, with about \$5K-\$8K carried over to next year.

2. Overlay Accounts(s) with Assessors

The assessors, led by Karen Avalue, met with us to discuss the overlay and MDM-1. In general, the assessors agreed that the bookkeeping should be easier. Surplus, exemptions, abatements were some of the items discussed. It was noted that reimbursements by the Commonwealth, with a few exceptions, are not full re-imbursements, with the town absorbing the difference.

We discussed the possibility of a change from Bucksteep's tax-exempt tax status as of Jan 1, 2017. The assessors noted that they would wait until they have a legal opinion from the DOR before doing anything.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:01 pm.

Respectfully,
David Weissbrod, Clerk