

Spencer Finance Committee
March 18, 2014
Minutes

Call meeting to order: 7:05 p.m.

Members Present: Mary Braney, Chair, Paul McLaughlin, Vice Chair, Nancy Herholz, Nancy Tame, John Desmarais, Robbin Joyce, Julie Parenteau, Bill Wall & Chris Kandel; Adam Gaudette, Town Administrator

Guests: Mark Robidoux, Superintendent of the Sewer Dept., Frank White, Sewer Commissioner Chair, Larry Dufault, Sewer Commissioner; Steven Tyler, Superintendent of the Water & Highway Depts., Transfer Station & Utilities & Facilities Management.

Minutes:

Approval for February 18, 2014 Minutes

Motion: John Desmarais

Second: Paul McLaughlin

Approved: 7 Abstain: 2

Approval of March 11, 2014 Minutes:

Motion: John Desmarais

Second: Julie Parenteau

Approved: 7 Abstain 2

Correspondence:

Nothing

Staff Presentation

Sewer Department, Mark Robidoux, Frank White & Larry Dufault collectively presented/defended the FY2015 budget. Salaries & wages, general expenses, Capital outlay and sewer rates & revenue were explained in detail.

Sewer Department is funded with sewer rate revenue, Investments & Retained Earnings.

Questions by committee members, comments & discussion

Utilities & Facilities, Adam Gaudette explained that this department is mainly an administrative account. The Utilities & Facilities office handles communications with

the public for the Highway, Sewer, Water and Transfer Station and the maintenance of town owned facilities.

Water Department, Steven Tyler & Adam Gaudette presented, line by line, the FY2015 Budget to include Salaries & wages, general expenses & Debt Service. Explained water rate projection & revenues along with fiscal year comparison (FY2008- FY2015).

Questions by committee members, comments & discussion

Highway Department, Adam Gaudette & Steven Tyler presented this FY2015 level-service budget; day-to-day operation & service; explained line by line salaries & wages & expenses (particularly the unfunded government mandates, such as replacing road signage to be more visible, especially at night). Mr. Tyler also noted that if it were possible to have a 12 man department instead of 9, this, in and of itself, could reduce the maintenance cost; such as the added coverage would lend to keeping up with the needed town projects and maintenance thereof.

Questions by committee members, comments & discussion

Snow & Ice Removal; Adam Gaudette explained that this account is allowed by law to "deficit spend;" therefore, the town historically relies on free cash to cover the overage; a slight increase of \$10,000.00 has been added in order to move closer to an actual, more realistic budget amount.

Questions by committee members, comments & discussion

Transfer Station; Steven Tyler & Adam Gaudette detailed the changes that will be taking place for FY2015; increase Transfer Stickers from \$30.00 to \$50.00, small trash bags will increase from \$1.00 to \$1.25, large trash bags from \$1.75 to \$2.50; Station will be opened two (2) days (7-5, Wednesday & Saturday), instead of three (3); will eliminate the trucking services of "WeCare" and use their own town employees.

Questions by committee members, comments & discussion

Liaison Report:

SEBRSC:

Mary Braney stated that the school committee did not meet; consequently, nothing new to report. BoS and FinCom, in a joint meeting, will meet with Interim Superintendent Malvey & Business Manager Suprenaut 3/24/2014. Mary reminded committee members that both the Superintendent & business manager came on after the district's fiscal fiasco and are doing their best to put everything back together.

Review FY2015 Budget Update: Adam Gaudette stated with much of what was previously discussed, there was nothing new to add.

Any Further Business: Draft Letter to BoS...Institution of the optional meal tax. Mary Braney read the letter for committee member review.

Motion made by John Desmarais for recommendation of FinCom to send the letter to the BoS for consideration to institute .75% (.0075), optional meal tax.

Second: Julie Parenteau

Approved: Unanimously

Motion to Adjourn: 9:50 p.m.

Motion: John Desmarais

Second: Paul McLaughlin

Approved: Unanimously

*Joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen March 24, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.; Finance Committee meeting March 25, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy E. Herholz