

## Westhampton Finance Committee Minutes

Tuesday, February 4, 2020

7:00 p.m.

Minutes approved 8-0-0

HS Budget - WH only town not wanting to split the budget. Will come back to us

No other old business

### Presentations

#### 1. Board of Health - Dave Blakesley

\$500 for budget every year. Usually don't touch it, but sometimes may use to advertise for a hearing, etc. Used \$331 in 2019 for ads and warrants through Sheriff's Dept.

Looking for \$500 again.

David is staying on BOH and HRMC. Tom Martin leaving HRMC, David and Bill Jablonski likely to be on it together.

#### 2. HRMC Assessment - Dave Blakesley, Bill Jablonski

F21 \$7528.20 is Westhampton assessment for this year to belong to the organization, based on population + total tonnage at transfer station. Covers transfer station hauling contract paperwork, procurement, solid waste regs, etc. 10 towns cooperate. Director constantly pursues grants from DEP, etc. to help the towns. Anticipate getting \$5600 for F21 grant - goes into an account with the town treasurer/accountant. Right now about \$20k in the account. Point system for collecting oil, electronics, etc. and grant award is based on the points. David strongly recommends staying with this organization.

F20 6915.00

F19 6833.00

#### 3. Transfer Station - David Blakesley, Bill Jablonski

\$10k cost increase to operate transfer station in F21. New 10-yr DEP contract with Waste Management for recyclables. Switching back to dual stream - need to purchase new recyclable container. If we continue the single stream, cost increases from 0 to \$14,500 to dump. If we go back to dual stream, will go from 0 to \$9350. Big savings to go back to dual. Grant funds will cover costs of switching.

#### 4. Highway - David Blakesley, Bill Jablonski

HCOG disbanding and used to cover procurement advertising costs for highway goods and services. Now going with FROG (Franklin Co). New yearly fee for advertising for procurement of \$2426 to add to F21 proposed Administration line = \$7426.

Reviewed rest of proposed budget.

State released new Chap 90 state aid. Westhampton received about \$18k. Change - can't use Chap 90 funds for parking lots anymore. WES gravel lot off Hathaway Rd is now on Capital Planning list as a result. New pickup also on Capital Planning list. Discussed the truck's cost and how it will be presented at Town Meeting.

#### 5. Selectboard - Phil Dowling, Cheryl Provost

Reviewed proposed budgets.

Through December 2019, counsel fees at \$5934, lower than expected, as some cases are "in limbo" right now. No new cases and Selected is checking with counsel proactively to avoid issues later.

Discussed proposed Assistant Town Clerk position - 5 hours per week for support at \$25/hour. Cheryl's job as Town Clerk + Admin Asst is one full-time job. Town Clerk job is 8-10 hrs/week. Admin Asst is 27.5 hrs/week. This new position is a person to support on an as-needed, flexible basis, no benefits.

Discussed new Town Property and Assessment Committee for maintenance, procurement, etc.

Discussed library possibly supporting its own maintenance through fundraising by Friends of Westhampton Library (Phil Dowling).

Solar credits will be expiring within a year or two - reminder.

PILOT program for solar field on Montague = \$80k per year to town for at least 20 years (and then may be renegotiated). PILOT is fixed even if the project is sold after it is established. First year expected to be F21. Asked Cheryl to clarify where this will appear in budget.

Teri Anderson discussed support/training for Zoning Bd to help reduce legal fees over time and will provide technical assistance to board. She is researching options for hourly support, checking how other communities do this, if it can be shared with other towns, etc.

Phil Dowling - building commissioner/inspector update. Southampton very interested in keeping Tom Quinlan in a shared position. Phil said Westhampton is interested in the conversation. Tom Quinlan is interested in staying and the idea of a shared position. Tom Cleary asked about keeping Quinlan as commissioner overseeing inspectors. Teri Anderson checking FROG options as possibility. Conversation to be continued.

Town Property and Assessment Committee - David Blakesley discussed Town Hall roof project. Will make a recommendation soon, heads-up for F21 budget planning - it will be \$50-100k. Includes front side of annex (slate part).

No update on timing for Public Safety Complex next steps.

Meeting Adjourned 8:45 p.m.

Next meeting: Tues February 25, 7:00 p.m.