

Westhampton Finance Committee Meeting Minutes  
February 25, 2020

Meeting opened at 7:03 pm

Present: Tom Cleary (chair), Peter Montague, Mary Cleary, Sarah Mulvehill, Tad Weiss, Pat Miller, Andrew Klyman, and Chevy Seney (secretary)

Also Present: Meaghan Schwelm (Library Director), Tom Martin (Board of Health), David White (Police Chief), Phil Dowling (Capital Planning and Selectboard)

Minutes from February 4, 2020 were amended. Item #3 regarding dual stream recycling was changed to "\$0-\$9350."

Motion to accept the amended minutes from the February 4, 2020 meeting was approved.

Vote: 7-0-1

### **FY21 Budget Planning**

The Library Director presented the FY21 budget proposal for Westhampton Public Library. Particular points in the presentation and discussion were:

- Library Capital Expense for Maintenance is estimated at ~\$ 8000 for interior and exterior painting.
- Phil Dowling shared his thoughts regarding a possible endowment that could continue to fund the library outside of the Town budget.
- Further investigation is needed to determine the "offset" accrued from the production of electricity by the library solar panels. Does this savings appear in the billing statements for the Town?

Board of Health requested an increase in Line 80 from \$500 to \$1000 primarily to explore and identify needs related to an "Aging in Place Initiative." While reviewing the Foot Hills District FY21 budget summary, a question arose regarding the "H. C. RETIREMENT" request. Tom Martin will seek clarification regarding the proposed amount for the health agent.

Chief White provided an overview of the past year's activity in the Police Department. He introduced a new part-time officer, Jeff Fish. Particular points in the FY21 budget presentation and discussion were:

- The police department office in the current Town Safety Complex is closed awaiting ADA compliance.
- The Harvest Valley repeater will NOT be in the FY22 Police Department budget request.

- The department will be testing out “in car record management.” There is no cost for the first year’s use of this system.
- Chief White emphasized the benefits of continuing the SRO relationship with Hampshire Regional High School.
- There is an upcoming capital expense for vests in FY22.

Phil Dowling presented a spreadsheet of “placeholders” for projected capital expenses for the Capital Planning Budget. Items of immediate note were for the:

- Highway Department Pick Up Truck
- Highway Department Generator
- Town Hall & Town Annex Roof Repair/Replacement
- Police Department Patrol Vehicle
- Police Department Digital Dual Band Radios
- Safety Complex Project

Editorial Notes!

- Line 120 of FY21 BUDGET should be \$236,000. This amount should also appear as a Debt Exclusion item.
- Line 142 may increase due to interest costs.

Next Meeting: March 3, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. **in the Library Community Room**

Motion to adjourn at 9:30 passed.

Vote: 8-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Chevy Seney