

Westhampton Finance Committee Meeting Minutes  
February 19, 2019

Meeting opened at 7:00 pm

Present: Tom Cleary (chair), Peter Montague, Mary Cleary, Steve Holt, Steve Gagne,  
Sarah Mulvehill, Jackie Brodeur, and Chevy Seney (secretary)

Also present: David Blakesly (Highway Department), Phil Dowling (Selectboard), Maureen  
Dempsey (Selectboard), Art Pichette (Selectboard), and Cheryl Provost (Administrative  
Assistant). Other community members and Chief White were also in attendance.

Motion to accept the minutes from the meeting held on January 8, 2019 was passed.

Vote: 5-0-1

Correspondence

The Beacon was available for review.

There will be a meeting tomorrow February 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 in Westhampton Town Hall with  
representatives of the five towns in the Hampshire Regional School District to “[to discuss the  
FY20 HRHS Preliminary Budget.](#)”

New Business

Budget Planning FY20

FY20 Budget Department Meetings

Tree Warden Expense (Line 74) is increased to cover cost of tree removal due to insect  
infestation.

HRMC Assessment (Line 38) may be less if the Town of Chester joins. At this time, it appears  
that Westhampton is eligible for the Recycling Dividends Program Grant. However, in the  
future, the Town may be required to pay to haul recycling.

Transfer Station (Line 37) FY20 budget request is level funded.

Board of Health (Line 80) FY20 budget request is level funded.

Highway Department (Lines 31-36) has requested an increase in Materials and Construction (Line 32) and an increase in the estimated snow removal expense (Line 35). There is a Capital Expense request of \$60,000 for a pick-up truck.

David Blakesly is proposing to use Gas & Diesel surplus funds to put a new gas pump and gas tank at the Highway Garage on Hathaway Road. An interdepartmental transfer of funds could occur after May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Selectboard requested an increase in Counsel Fees (Line 2); FY20 \$30,000.

After reconsideration, Reserve Fund (Line 105) FY20 request was returned to \$20,000.

Selectboard Expenses (Line 5) increased slightly due to cost of producing the Town Report.

The Document Management System (Line 6) was explained by Cheryl Provost. This line item would facilitate the preserving and archiving of Town documents and would be a recurring expense.

Town Offices (Line 93) requested a decrease overall for FY20. There is a Capital Expense request for repairs to the two bathrooms in the Town Hall and replacement of the two main hall entrance and exit doors. There is no estimate, yet, for the replacement of the doors.

There is a pending Green Communities Grant that could be used for other Town projects that relate to Energy Reduction. Currently, Westhampton is not a “qualifying Green Community.”

A “place holder request” of \$15,184 for IT Support (Line 94) includes funds for proposed email cloud migration and monthly email support.

The remainder of the meeting was a presentation by Phil Dowling of a proposed funding strategy for the Safety Complex. Discussion suggested the need/desire for a Ballot Question regarding a possible request for funds for the Design and Bid Phase of the proposed plan.

Next Meeting: Tuesday March 5, 2019 at 7:00 pm

Motion to Adjourn at 9:50 was approved.

Vote: 8-0-0

Respectfully submitted,  
Chevy Seney