

Westhampton Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2016, amended

Present: Jackie Brodeur, Aniko Giordano, Celeste Whiting, Maryanne Duggan, Tom Cleary, Mary Cleary, Ellice Brandow, Ed Zawacki

Also present: Phil Dowling, Steve Holt, Joe Boudreau, Cheryl Provost

Minutes from March 29, 2016, accepted with these changes: Celeste's opinion about raises on the last line of page one to be taken out. A comment by Mary on page 2, in regards to line 58 of the budget, would suggest that

“one time cost” increases may have been carried through to the current proposed budget. On page 3, Celeste wants to be sure that “we're not building into the budget what we understand to be one time expenses”. On the discussion of line 60 also on page 3, Celeste's full statement is: “It makes sense to recall how the decision to run an ambulance was made at TM because we can expect such questions from the floor at TM”.

Correspondence included upcoming financial trainings in Hadley, MA, discussion of when Cherry sheets would be expected- possibly by the end of this week, and ongoing discussion of best practices for communication with the SB to enhance budget process.

Under old business, Aniko reported that she had spoken to Bill Tracy from the Historic Commission and that he will be resending his budget request that hadn't been received by FC. The same amount as last year is being requested as the Clapp Fund does not pay for things such as lumber for repairs to Blacksmith Museum.

A discussion of the Annual Town Report which is available at the annual town meeting as well as updated budget figures and articles to be voted on were discussed. Suggestions were made to leave budget figures out of the printed book and rely on handouts and perhaps give out handouts for the past 2 years and proposed current budget. A vote was taken with 7 for and 1 against to have the fiscal year 2015 and 2016 printed into the town report and the handouts will include fiscal years 15,16,and 17.

Discussion of the town ambulance and its service and cost to the town was discussed. A suggestion was made to form a town committee to evaluate

the cost after enough receipts for the “ runs “ it has made come in and are accounted for.

Discussion line by line commenced of the current budget figures. It was decided that the audit figure would be reduced to \$7000 which would allow a bi-annual audit for now rather than yearly audits. The Elementary School budget may be reduced by \$20,000. The Police Department may have a reduction of \$2000. The Fire Department request for the upgraded meter would be listed under non-operating capital to separate this expense from an ongoing budget. The animal control budget was considered to be decreased by \$300.

There was a discussion of where the solar rebates for the library(SREC) are accounted for in the budget and Joe reported that they are in a separate receipts account.

A request for transfer from the reserve fund was acted upon with \$1,742.64 transferred to cover outstanding counsel fee invoice.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30PM

Next meeting planned for Tuesday, April, 19, 2016, tentatively in the Community Room of the Library.

Respectfully submitted by,
Jackie Brodeur