

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Via Conference Call #1-605-313-5944 April 28, 2020

Present: Ned Wolf; Chair, Jan Carr, Alice Wozniak and Kathy Inman.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM.

Minutes: Jan moved to approve the minutes of April 14th as amended. Ned seconded. Kathy Inman abstained due to absence. Passed by majority.

Disconnected and called into Select Board meeting #1-425-436-6370

BOS conference call: Joined by Fin com at 6:15

Betty- discussed tax collector budget. Unable to identify yet whether people are paying their taxes on time. \$10,460 for software in the budget- Betty does not think we will need it this year, and if we use Camma may not need that money, but if anything changes, may need a large amount to purchase software. Robyn noted that Assessor's software may have some extra money also.

Joel Mollison: Northeast IT: not on conference call as scheduled- BOS discussed 3 different options for service. Tending to prefer plan #2. Further information needed. Hilma asked to follow up on some questions.

7PM returned to Fin Com meeting: Ongoing Business:

Review of budget indicates a total increase of 8.89% increase

Estimated increase of 2.24 in tax rate for a tax rate of 24.49/ thousand for the coming year.

Fin Com will not recommend a budget for fiscal 21 where the estimated tax rate is over 24.00/ thousand (That is excluding broadband, which will be added next year).

Reviewed areas that had increased: Technical support, truck, new MLP position for broadband, etc, which add up to an 8.8% increase. An Increase of 90,700 = \$1.00 on tax rate

To spend an increase 8.8% you need to raise tax rate by \$2.24 Close to 10% over last year.

22.25 current tax rate. Discussed increases in previous years. There will be increases the following year related to broadband, not to mention other identified expenses such as OPEB, and other regular increases such as insurance, and other unexpected expenses.

If 24.49 for fiscal 21, and you add on 40-50,000 increase from things you cannot control (insurance, etc.) and then add 1.00 due to broadband, rate will be close to 26 the following year.

Discussed possible cuts, a variety of small cuts in multiple areas. Also discussed potential future increases: school assessment could drive up costs next year.

Current assessment for Mohawk Trail will go up this coming fiscal year, approximately 1.00 Questions raised about what we can do about that. Questions about minimum contribution by town? Whether it is affected by the wealth factor. Ned will investigate.

Brief discussion of revenue from 18 Jacobs, very small, (9, 927.00) as compared to cost to run the building part time. Plan on moving was predicated on 1million dollar bond authorization coming through which seems highly unlikely this year.

Town cannot afford to maintain all three buildings.

STM on May 14, cancelled, to be rescheduled.

If a town fails to pass a budget it can proceed as 1/12 of the previous budget for a month because of new COVID laws.

Tax rate will not be certified if a town fails to pass a budget, then tax bills cannot go out.

Discussed information to include in letter to send out to residents as well as for Heath Herald.

Motion to adjourn Alice 8:36. Jan seconded. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Inman