

**TOWN OF NEW SALEM**

**BOARD OR COMMITTEE:** Finance Committee

**DATE:** Friday March 15, 2024 **TIME:** 8:30 am

**LOCATION:** Video conferenced on Zoom

Committee Members Attending Gabe Voelker, Claire McGinnis and Dara Laplante

Others Attending Tim Hunting, Interim Highway Super, Jake Voelker for BoHealth, Sue Cloutier for Select Board

Call to Order 8:30 am

**Discussion**

1. Opening Discussion – Tim with us until end of April. Select Board has a couple applications for the open position
2. DPW Budget – Tim gaining familiarity with all the expenses and he talked through them with us. Increase Reserve in FY25 to cover the salary that may be higher as SB negotiates with new hire of Super. *Vehicles:*
  - a. 2002 F750, sander only, 79K miles, no plow. Works but rusty.
  - b. 2013 F550 dump, sander with 77k miles, needs transmission and transfer case. These have to be rebuilt to run the vehicle. Now at garage in Bernardston and motor is fine, estimate is \$7-8K repair. It is a sander and plow. Worth fixing.
  - c. 2014 Peterbuilt 10 wheeler dump with plow in good shape.
  - d. 2016 F750 dumper with \$18k miles, dump, and plow, accident with damage to side but still functions. He'd like to repair that damage but less critical.
  - e. 2022 F550 dumper 26K miles with sander and plow in good shape.
  - f. Recommends 3 functioning sanders, which is an add of 1. Replace oldest and fix the 2013. Consider stainless steel body and all season body for better sanding on the purchase.

Dept doesn't use outside contractors for plowing or sanding. *Equipment:*

- a. 2020 Excavator,
  - b. Loader that is in good shape, no known issues.
  - c. 2003 Tractor with boom mower, also fine.
  - d. 1995 chipper in good condition.
  - e. 1998 grader with good condition.
  - f. 2001 Cat backhoe currently not running. Have to get it running to assess.
  - g. Equipment trailer, pretty oversize, very rusted out. Wants to retire it.
- Excavator is track machine, cannot go any distance on roads, and trailering it is very inefficient and trailer is bad enough to be unsafe. Tim finds the backhoe a better solution for travel and versatility. Wants a 4 in 1 bucket, hoe should have articulating hoe for ditches. Claire will send a report to Tim and Gabe can keep the articles accurate to the warrant for town meeting.
3. Board of Health – need salary line increase to cover the wage adjustments made when last filled vacancies.
  4. COLA – Gabe will send hourly rates of hourly staff so we can compare to the FRCOG Wage and Salary Survey results. Adjusting a rate to fill a vacancy creates a waterfall effect in same staff group to match with the prior staff. Sometime effect is also across departments. We need to do our homework and discuss again.
  5. List departments that didn't reply....Gabe will walk through FY24 year to date to see if there are problem spots.
  6. Library capital request follow-up, nothing in budget yet – Judith didn't show
  7. Begin review of sources of funding for balancing FY25 requests – we didn't really get to this.
  8. Recrunch group health with a 20 hour position add, 8% plus one new family plan. Need to crunch the Police Dept salary too if that position add is approved.
  9. Adjourn at 10:15 am, Dara yes, Claire yes, Gabe yes

10. Next meeting Tues pm 4/2/24 around 6:30 pm, invite Sue, discuss schools particularly transportation, and balancing the budget with sources. Salaries. Library Capital, Highway conclusions.

Documents Referenced: FY25 V2 3 15 mtg.xlsx