

BOARD OR COMMITTEE: Finance Committee

DATE: Friday Feb 24, 2023 **TIME:** 10:00 am

Meeting Minutes

Call to order: 9:03, remote meeting using twon Zoom account.

Attending: Gabe Voelker, Chuck Hartwell, Claire McGinnis, Jacob Cooley and Bill Lafley

1. Hearings with Departments.

- a. Assessors, Bill Lafley sent a budget for consideration – RRG (external vendor doing the day to day of the office plus the revaluation of property formerly hired using the Assessors Reval Account) service covers the revaluation. But dept will need a bit of funds from the built up balance in the Reval Account for the operating expense. RRG should provide a FY24 number for the coming year, and Bill doesn't have that answer yet. Gabe suggests level funding the budget until more information is known.
- b. Highway, Jake Cooley – requesting budget increases in road maintenance line, and Tree Warden spec article. Some discussion about adding \$5,000 to equipment maintenance line based on YTD 2023 and the age of his machines. Aging equipment requires more. He has some current year line by line issues to resolve. Need to dive into fuel as well, to get the expense into the correct line. Also discussed a five-year plan for road maintenance. Regrade two to three times a year is regular maintenance for dirt roads. Gets about a mile per year of resurfacing paved roads with the regular Chapter 90 funding.
- c. Highway Capital Request - \$115,900 for an Excavator, off state contract. Backhoe that department has is falling apart due to age. It has been very expensive in maintenance. New one would allow for better speed or work and save wages. Excavator also allows better ability to get off road to work so fewer road closures and traffic impact. Gabe asks for replacement of vehicle schedule as well. Jake describes this request as a highest priority.

2. Gabe aware that Town needs a capital plan, 5 year projection.

3. Adjourn at 9:50

Next meetings

3/10 at 10 am

3/16 at 6*30 pm

3/20 at 6:30 with New Salem Select Board to discuss STM

3/20 at 7 with Wendell Fin Comm

3/21 Special Town Meeting

Documents Used

Assessors Budget request by email

DPW Budget request

DPW Capital request