March 24, 2016

Town of West Bridgewater

Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting

The meeting convened at 6:36 P.M. in the Selectmen’s Meeting Room in the West Bridgewater Town Hall.

Committee Members Present: Chairman Ms. Meredith Anderson, Vice Chairman Ms. Jeri Screnci, Mr. Anthony Kinahan, Ms. Janice Fox, Ms. Jennifer Clark-Croes, Mr. Peter Fredericksen

Committee Members Absent: Ms. Cheryl Adams, Mr. Maurice McCarthy, and Mr. J.P. Waller

Also present as Town Administrator David Gagne.

Ms. Janice Fox made a motion to accept for review the March 17th meeting minutes, Ms. Jeri Screnci seconded and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of this motion.

Mr. Warren Turner & Ms. Joan McAndrew then entered the meeting to discuss the ongoing projects for the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) as Chairman Ms. Cheryl Cambria could not attend.

The first topic of discussion was a request from the Town Clerk for $10,000.00 to continue the work of preserving local town records. Mr. Turner discussed how this was an ongoing project.

The Second topic of discussion was the request from the Board of Assessors for $20,000.00 to begin preserving permanent records of the Assessors Valuation Books dated 1830 – 1938. Mr. Fredericksen asked why this needs to be done and Mr. Warren explained how this was for historical preservation. Mr. Gagne also commented that if these books are deemed a vital record then it is a requirement of the law for them to be maintained. Ms. Fox asked what they would be doing and Mr. Warren explained that they would be putting the books in binder books to be protected. Mr. Warren also commented how the records and books are becoming very acidic due to the humidity.

The third topic of discussion was the request from Lauren Delaney, Superintendent for Pleasant Hill Cemetery for $35,000.00 for signs, benches, fencing, cameras, lighting and cleaning and restoration and/or repair or replacement of head stones recently damaged by vandalism. Ms. Anderson asked where the $35,000.00 figure came from. Mr. Warren explained that $27,000.00 was to cover the replacement of the stones; $2,500.00 was to repair the spray painted areas with special cleaners, $3,000.00 for Cameras. Mr. Warren also mentioned that they would like to add a gate at the cemetery entrance and repair the iron fencing.

The fourth topic of discussion was the request for $75,000.00 by the West Bridgewater Conservation Commission to put toward the purchase of land along River Street. The purchase price of the land is $120,000.00, and the remaining $45,000.00 will be raised from other funding. Mr. Warren noted that the town would receive right of first refusal on the property. Ms. Screnci asked what they would do with the property and the trailer that is located on it. Mr. Warren explained that this property would be
used for a canoe launch as there is no way to access the river upstream, as well as parking. Ms. Fox asked how large the property was. Mr. Warren was not able to answer that question.

The last topic was for the request for $60K from the WB Fire Department for the development of the WB 911 Memorial Park project. Ms. Anderson asked if there was any additional fundraising for this project. Mr. Warren explained that there is currently a “Go Fund Me” Page as well as some private fundraising. Ms. Screni asked what they will be doing. Mr. Warren and Ms. McAndrew explained that they would be adding a small park right by the fire station approximately 50 x 100 with benches.

Mr. Turner & Ms. McAndrew exited the meeting at 7:15 PM.

Police Chief Donald Clark and Lieutenant Victor Flaherty entered the meeting to present budget 2100 (Police Department). Lieutenant Flaherty started by giving a brief description of the budget and highlighting some key items and changes. Lieutenant Flaherty discussed in detail the proposal for a new position – School Resource Officer (SRO). Chairman Anderson asked whether in his professional opinion if this position was necessary. Lieutenant Flaherty explained that this will be an evolving position and is worth looking into and trying. He also explained that adding the SRO bumps up the budget. The permanent line is up $24K - 2.6% increase.

Chairman Anderson asked about the K-9 Control Budget 2920. Lieutenant Flaherty explained that it was identical to last year and that the Police Department will be bidding out this Service Police Chief Clark and Lieutenant Flaherty exited the meeting at 8:05 PM.

Mr. David Gagne then presented budget 1220 (Board of Selectman), 1290 (Town Administrator), 1310 (Finance Committee), 1320 (Finance Committee Reserve) and 8200 (Governor’s Proposal for Local Aid). The committee discussed these budgets and Mr. Gagne answered questions that arose.

Ms. Screni then made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Clark-Croes seconded and the committee voted unanimously in favor of this motion.

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin E. Leahy, Secretary

J.P Waller, Clerk