

Finance Committee Minutes

February 5th 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:08PM. Present were Mr. John Pshenishny, Mr. Mark Carson, Mr. David Herrick, Mr. Ira Yohalem, Mr. Joseph Kellogg, and Mrs. Prudence Spaulding with guests, Mr. Nathaniel Yohalem, Mrs. Michele Shalaby, and Ms. Tara White. Mr. Chuck Loring Highway Superintendent, and Fire Chief came to explain his budgets.

The minutes for January 22nd were accepted as read. Mr. Yohalem 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed unanimously.

Prior to reviewing the Highway Budget Mr. Loring stated that last year he had requested clerical help for the Highway department. There had been discussions about sharing such help with the Sheffield Highway Department, but so far this had not happened. He estimated that the department needed about eight hours of clerical help. If a clerk was hired for this purpose at \$13,50 per hour the cost to the town would be approximately \$7,000 per year. This cost was added to the Roads and Bridges account.

Roads and Bridges Salaries [20422.03] (\$ 260,547) now requesting {\$274,061} Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Yohalem 2nd passed unanimously.

Roads and Bridges [20422.05] (\$190,000) now requesting {\$195,000}, this budget includes all the materials such as gravel etc. to maintain and repair roads. The cost of the materials has increased, but the town uses all of the materials each year. Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed unanimously.

Highway Department Training Expenses [20422.07] (\$ 1,500) now requesting {\$2,300} the increase in this budget reflects the added training needed to have the workers maintain their class 2 licenses and Mr. Loring hopes to have some of the trained in welding and other maintenance skills. Classes needed are often in the middle of the state which incurs added costs. He is hopeful to get some classes brought to this end of the state. Mr. Carson 1st, Mrs. Spaulding 2nd passed unanimously.

Electricity [20422.15] (\$4,500) level funded {\$4,500} Mr. Yohalem 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed unanimously.

Propane [20422.18] (\$18,000) level funded {\$18,000} Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Yohalem 2nd passed unaniamously.

Diesel [20422.10] (\$59,000) level funded {\$59,000} Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed unanimously.

Highway Uniforms and Gear [20422.78] (\$3,000) now requesting {\$3,500} the cost of gesr has increased. Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed unanimously.

Winter Roads [20423.02] (\$256,334) now requesting {\$266,334} it was noted that last year we spend over \$300,000 on winter roads! Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Yohalem 2nd passed unanimously.

Town Garage Maintenance [20425.00] (\$11,500) now requesting {\$12,500} Mr. Loring reminded the group that last year the town garage required some door maintenance and added that there was more door maintenance required. Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Yohalem 2nd passed unanimously.

Machinery Expense [20428.00] (\$71,046) now requesting {\$76,046}, Mr. Loring stated that some machinery expense (between \$30,000 and \$40,000) was included in last year's Winter Roads budget. He is hopeful that this budget will not exceed its boundaries. Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed unanimously.

Fire Protection [60220.00] (\$60,000) level funded {\$60,000} Mr. Carson 1st, Mrs. Spaulding 2nd passed with Mr. Herrick recusing.

Fireman's Stipend [60220.05] (\$36,500) level funded {\$36,500} Mr. Carson 1st, Mrs Spaulding 2nd passed with Mr. Herrick recusing.

Fire Department Dues [60220.44] (\$200) level funded {\$200} Mr. Carson 1st, Mrs. Spaulding 2nd passed with Mr. Herrick recusing.

Fire Department Clerical [60220.88] (\$1,700) level funded {\$1,700} Mr. Carson 1st, Mrs. Spaulding 2nd passed with Mr. Herrick recusing.

Before Mr. Loring left he stated that he wished to share some things that he was considering requesting this year. The Highway Department would benefit from having a tractor that would be able to cut brush from the sides of the roads. This would not replace Mr. Ed Riiska's mowing but increasing the visibility making the roads safer. The cost of this tractor would be about \$120,000, but if the purchase and the cost of this machine could be shared with the Sheffield and perhaps the Monterey Highway Departments it would be a benefit to all three towns but not incur such a great expense. Mr. Loring also sees the need for a backup generator in the town garage with an estimated cost of about \$10,000. A motion was made to support these costs, Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd however Mrs. Spaulding stated that more information should be presented before she would consider voting on this motion. Mr. Nathaniel Yohalem

stated that he would explore the possible sharing of the proposed tractor, and Mr. Loring stated that he would investigate the actual costs etc. of the proposed generator. Mr. Loring left.

Finance Committee Expenses [10133.00] (\$500) level funded {\$500} this fund covers office supplies mailing and should Mrs. Spaulding resign from taking the minutes this budget would pay for the cost of secretarial work. Mr. Carson 1st, Mrs. Yohalem 2nd passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Expenses [10147.44] (\$3,300) level funded {\$3,300} Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Yohalem 2nd passed unanimously.

Treasurer Software and Support [10147.89] (\$3,200) now requesting {\$3,450} this reflects an increase in the cost from the SoftRight Company. Mr. Carson 1st, Mrs. Spaulding 2nd passed unanimously.

Tax Title [10149.00] (\$5,000) now requesting {\$6,000} more properties are being brought into tax title which will benefit the town. Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Carson 2nd passed unanimously.

The following budgets were the payment of vehicle loans, banking services and the Berkshire county Retirement Association and were voted and approved as a block with Mr. Carson 1st and Mr. Yohalem 2nd passed unanimously.

Ambulance Loan [80750.14] (\$28,165) now requesting {\$27,494} Passed.

2013 Highway Truck Loan [80750.17] (\$41,870) now requesting {440,832} Passed.

Town Hall Renovations Loan 2013 [80750.18] (\$14,430) now requesting {\$14,073} Passed.

2014 Highway Truck Loan [80750.19] (\$26,170)now requesting {\$25,680} passed.

Loader Loan [80750.20] (\$18,951) now requesting {\$18,725} passed.

20015 Highway Truck Loan [no number available] first payment {\$49,060} passed.

Interest Expense [80752.00] (\$5,000) level funded {\$5,000}

Banking Services [80753.00] (\$200) level funded {\$200} passed.

Berkshire County Retirement Association.[90911.00] (\$100,953) now requesting {\$112,635} the committee noted that the town was still paying for three members that took "early retirement" but that cost would expire soon. This budget was covered in the blanket approval.

Mr. Kellogg presented the members with information on the debt service schedules that might be used for the school heating and roofing bond. He stated that the school would first take out a building loan and then once the project was completed the actual cost would be assessed and

the state would pay its share the actual costs would then be available. The school still hopes that the estimated costs will be higher than the actual costs!

Mr. Ira Yohalem stated that he would not be available for the next two weeks. Mr. Kellogg stated that he would work to collect the remaining budgets and have them available for a Finance Committee Meeting in two weeks. Mr. Herrick set the next meeting to be held on Thursday February 19th 2015 at 7:00PM.

Mr. Herrick instructed Mrs. Spaulding to post the results of this meeting to Mr. Imberman.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made Mr. Yohalem 1st, Mr. Carson 2nd passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Prudence Spaulding, Secretary.