

Town of New Marlborough  
Finance Committee meeting

2/27/2020

Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm by Chair Steve Klein

Sandy Walker, Steve Klein Barbara Marchione John Pshenishny .  
Chuck Loring, Mari Enoch , Marsh Pshenishny and Tara White present.

Chuck Loring came to the board to discuss a unanticipated reserve account request  
The Fuel injector pump blew the engine of the 2011 brush truck. It had metal Shavings in the engine.

300- 400 hours only on truck. Ford estimates approximately 21,000 to repair  
Diesel mechanic from Goshen comes highly recommended.

6.7-liter diesel only has 7000 miles

Repair estimate 17000.00 - 20000.00 for the diesel mechanic.

Three prices. There is a class action lawsuit with this type engine.

Sandy Walker asked if we could get in on the lawsuit. Chief Loring will work with her on that topic.

Will get prices and a request was made to use the reserve fund to repair it. Chuck was asked about safety measures with a truck down and if they were put into place. Chuck stated that it was the beginning of brush fire season.

Doug joins meeting 7: 35.

A three-page report, was presented from the Auditors. Questions followed

Sandy and Steve are looking for a reconciled report quarterly.

Tara said that reconciled statements are different. Sandy asks for due diligence and that she needs reports in a timely fashion.

Pursuant to a motion of the finance committee, we have not received any financial statements.

Steve is adamant that we need to have financial statements presented to the finance committee in a timely fashion, and quarterly.

Quick update from Steve as to where we are in regards to the budget.

Review of the budget worksheets ensued Steve commented that  
we can see that we've made progress in budget submittals.

Mari updates - fire, building, and five other budgets were submitted just today. They are just not downloaded.

Library and the Board of Health, Transfer Station, or insurance, have not been received yet.  
Revised budgets are also coming in already.

HR study has interviewed all employees and department heads. Standard HR policies are being compared with our policies. She is now checking with other small towns to compare our town to others. Steve is concerned that the HR study is late coming in. Pressure is being put on Mary, the

woman doing the HR study.

Doug reported a summary of school committee progress with their budget. New Marlborough had been initially set to have a 250,000.00 Increase for this year.

New Marlborough has an increase of 15 students enrolled. 145 children are enrolled in Southern Berkshire as of October 1, 2019.

The adjusted increase after review and correcting errors is approximately 105,000.00 Increase. Doug said they will be using reserve money to keep the budget lower for the five towns. Doug noted that both South Egremont and New Marlborough Central are at full capacity. Five year rolling average will be helpful to New Marlborough.

Steve proposes that it doesn't make sense to approve any budgets tonight.

We will share what are known line items. Steve would secondly like to go through budgets, but as a matter of process we approve sections of budgets.

It's a way to streamline the budget.

Doug is not comfortable with voting by sections, he feels we need to vote line by line.

Column K is the increase over last year.

The large budget requests are -

Town council is up substantially

Treasurers software is down substantially.

Tax title has gone up.

Mari has follow up question.

There was a question about election expenses. Is it enough?

Discussion ensued.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the expenditure of a monitor

For the town. Doug motioned, Sandy seconded motion. On to reviewing some budget numbers.

Highway budget -

Chuck has dumped trees at Wilkinson's for years, for no cost, but can no longer use that site.

Highway has 20,000.00 budgeted for tree disposal, A 5,000.00 Increase additional for detail and an 80,000.00 Increase for general purposes. We have asked for a more detailed accounting of highway needs.

Roadside mowing was decreased. We will have Chuck to come back in to clarify his budget.

Highway department budget is comprised of training, electric bills and uniforms.

Cemetery -questions arose about hiring an additional man for spring cleanup.

Also the cemetery commissions meetings, are in question along with repairs.

Discussions move onto Umpachene Falls, and their budget for repair of the bank, down by the falls. Money has been carried forward on this project.

A carry forward of 9200.00 is in the project. It has been designed and the permitting has been completed.

Animal control discussed

EMS more information needed.

The tree warden has asked for an increase.

Tree maintenance project. There was talk about the suggestion of an ongoing tree project.

Several years ago, there was a proposal on the table for systematic tree removal on a yearly

basis. The original idea was for 50,000.00 per year to do the work. That initial was pared down considerably.

Berkshire county retirement- we had an early retirement incentive. Next year may be the last year.

Steve asked Mari why the pension account went up 5,000.00

She briefly explained the process.

That's the end of the reviews for tonight. Steve thanked Doug for his participation and time spent representing New Marlborough at the SBRSD budget meetings.

Steve will send out the submitted budgets with back up material.

Minutes from February 11, 2020 were amended and approved.

Doug motioned to approve minutes as amended, Sandy seconded.

All in favor. Minutes approved.

Meeting will be next Thursday, March 5, 2020 @ 6 pm

Doug motions to adjourn, Sandy seconded meeting adjourned @ 8:44 pm.

Sandy will run next week's meeting as Steve will be calling in remotely.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Marchione