

Minutes of New Marlborough Finance Committee meeting of 3/26/20

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm

All members of the committee were present on conference call.

Also present was Maureen Krejci (Ambulance), Richard Long, Tara White, Nat Yohalem, Mari Enoch, Chuck Loring

Prior meeting's minutes March 10 and March 19 were reviewed and approved unanimously. Steve Klein volunteered to produce minutes of this meeting.

Steve Klein, commented on the status on the overall budget, several items still outstanding, but most have been submitted. He noted that the HR committee is reviewing report with consultant to make recommendation to Select Board before it is submitted to the Finance committee.

He further noted the postponement of the town meeting and town election. Selectman Yohalem noted that a target date would likely be selected. Finance committee schedule will be adjusted accordingly.

Mr. Loring addressed the roads and bridges and expense lines of the Highway budget. Gravel needs are extreme and disposal of trees and stumps will now have to be paid for. Alternative approaches were discussed and Chuck promised to submit revisions. Work on alternatives must be developed.

Turning to the Fire Budget, Chuck commented that it was historically due to past cutbacks. Some of the increase is due to compliance issues, and some is due to necessary replacement of equipment and gear and maintenance of vehicles.

Ms. Krejci discussed the ambulance budget. Three budgets: expenses-increase is due to new software for patient care reporting. Ms. Marchione asked about the adequacy of PPE and Ms. Krejci reported that supplies are adequate at this time. Clerical—workload has increased dramatically, based on six hours/week. As of July 1, extensive data reporting is required for Medicare and two extra hours will be required. Also requested a \$1 hourly increase. We need to distinguish between hours and rate when assessing the request. Ms. Krejci noted that vendor and stipend budget are offset by separate funding. Finally, stipends—Stipends are set by the night. Pay is \$25 night. Request is to increase to \$30 night. Call rate is below going rate. need to cover calls that do not result in hospital visits or for presence at structural fires without injuries. Increases are an estimate. Clerical = \$7,072. Stipends = \$32,100.

Mr. Klein noted that the committee needs to understand how much leeway the town has for purposes of setting a new budget. He noted further that he will work with Ms. Enoch on this in

the coming weeks. Mr. Enoch noted that other sources of income are outside of the 2 ½ limit, i.e. excess capacity (which carries over from prior years), estimated new growth. Also, we spend some funds on one-time expenses and now those funds are available for expenses. More work will be undertaken on this.

Mr. Klein noted that we need to look for cuts in large items, large increases as well unspent budgets.

No other items were raised for discussion.

Adjournment was moved and unanimously approved at 7:19 PM.

Submitted by Robert Miller