

Minutes of the October 6, 2022 Finance Committee

Members

Shaun Galliher

Jim Chivers

Heather Brown

Russ Parks

Bonnie Conner

Mary Rice

Absent

Other

Bob Graves, Town Administrator

Sarah Baumann

The meeting was opened at 6:25 pm.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the September 1, 2022 meeting as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Galliher and the Committee discussed the Accountants report. The Board of Health is 40% expended because of a large number of postings. The Landfill permit income is nowhere near covering the costs associated with the operation of the landfill. Compared to surrounding Towns, our fees are very low and should be raised to cover the costs.

Bob Graves received a quote for concrete pads at the Landfill as there is a concern that the blacktop will sink under the weight of the bins. The total with the quote and some monies from Infrastructure and Engineering is \$25,660 for four (4) pads. The rest of the work should be completed within a few weeks. To date the total cost is approximately 650K.

The Contract with the State has not yet been received to pave the road from New Windsor Road to the Peru Town line. Jamie Callahan, Highway, worked hard to get the State to include repair of the numerous manholes at their expense and they have agreed.

There was a question as to if the contract for the Fire Department Tanker has been signed yet. Bob will look into it as there is some confusion about it. He has not received a copy of it as yet.

Chairman Galliher is still waiting for a quote from the Fire Department for repair of the Pump for Engine 2. This will need to be a Reserve Fund Transfer, possibly at our next meeting.

Jim Chivers, School Building Committee, said the work on the school is basically done. There is a Special Town Meeting on October 19th for the Town to take a vote on replacing the Track at the school. Our portion will be approximately 10K for the next 30 years.

Bonnie Conner, Seven Town School Advisory Committee, reported that there has been basically no progress on making sure the original Seven Town Agreement includes that any Capital project not be voted in by the majority vote. Each Town should have a vote that counts and not be decided by Dalton alone, that has the majority of population. Four Towns voted no on the school, but the vote went by the majority and Dalton had the largest numbers. This is not what the Towns originally agreed to. She feels it's going nowhere. Viv Mason has turned in her letter of resignation on the Committee. Our Committee urged Bonnie to stay on it so our Town has a voice in the process.

There is no report for Water and Sewer but Mary Rice promised one for our next meeting.

The Police Merger was briefly discussed. Bob Graves does feel that in the near future, rationalization will be the way to go given our dwindling resources. Possibly two Officers are considering other options and may be leaving. This option may not be far off, to merge with Dalton.

Jamie Callahan, Highway, gave Bob a list of equipment and the condition of each one. The green one ton truck is out of service and he really could use that size truck rather than the larger ones, on a daily basis. The Excavator has been costly and they are having a lot of trouble with it. The Mower is only two wheel drive and constantly gets stuck. The Backhoe floor needs replacement. Chapter 90 can be used to fix the Excavator but cannot be used to purchase a one ton truck. Chairman Galliher reminded the Committee that we will need to replace two Fire Trucks in the next several years, at approximately 800K each.

Jamie Callahan, Highway, first reported that there were 4 outstanding invoices from the Salt Company and they would not honor his order because of it. Through many phone calls and emails he was finally able to talk directly with someone. He found out that Becket also had this same issue and the Company agreed to honor his order that was placed before the price increase October 1, 2022. This effort will save the Town \$3K. This error may have been on the Salt Company's end and not ours. This is still due and would need to go to a Special or Annual Town Meeting to be paid, and the vote needs to be 9/10th in favor.

The Committee discussed the possibility of using liquid salt that is much more cost effective and works better in this climate.

Chairman Galliher reported that the Tax Bills have gone out and there is approximately a \$.17 decrease in the rate. Personal Property bills also went out but are messed up and outdated. This is being looked into and will be corrected.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 7:31 pm, the motion passed unanimously. The next regular meeting of this Committee is Thursday, November 3, 2022 at 6:30 pm in the downstairs Community room at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary A. Rice, Secretary