

Minutes of the March 14, 2024 Finance Committee and Select Board

Members	Absent	Other
Shaun Galliher	Tracey Lussier	Bob Graves, Town Administrator
Heather Brown	Sarah Baumann	Bart Collins, Select Board Chair
Jim Chivers	Russ Parks	Ray Huntoon, Select Board
Bonnie Conner		
Mary Rice		
Candy Galeucia		

The meeting was opened at 6:33 p m.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the March 7th and March 9th meetings as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Galliher announced that the School Committee and School Administration will be attending our next meeting, Thursday, March 21, 2024. However, our Hinsdale School Committee representative, Dick Peters, will not be able to attend this meeting. Our Committee discussed the importance of our Town Representative actually representing our Town, and not the School Committee which seems to be what is happening.

Bob Graves, Shaun Galliher, the Select Board and the Committee discussed at length, the Capital Plan. Some items have already been done, some are pushed out to other years, and some will be addressed this year. Chairman Galliher will put this all together, per our discussions, for one of our next meetings.

One discussion involved the Highway equipment, Chapter 90 funds and the possibility of replacing the pick up used by the Highway Superintendent, Jamie Callahan. There is a lot of miles on it due to being used by previous Road Superintendents traveling back and forth from Chester and Becket. Currently we have approximately \$70K available in the Ch. 90 funds. The estimated cost for a new F350, basic model, would range between \$50K and \$75K, and that money could be used to purchase it. Jamie will be asked to get some quotes.

Other items discussed on the Capital Plan were the Highway Department back hoe, loader, Police Cruiser, Vacume Trailer, Plunkett Retention Pond, Dam Inspections, Fire Department Class A Pumper, Exhaust Removal System, to name a few. The issue of purchasing a Shredder for the Transfer Station was discussed and the Committee agreed that it would save money in the hauling costs in the long run and could be cost effective.

Salaries percentage increases were discussed and basically there was overall agreement on these.

Chairman Galliher reported that we have approximately \$270 in Free Cash, and and \$160K in Road Stabilization.

Bob Graves reported that he is going to apply for another Grant to finish the Schnopp Road Project, 2/3rds are completed to date. That Grant application is due in June and will be awarded around October for 2025. Although he did apply, we were not granted the one for 2024. The next road to be addressed is New Windsor Road, and then possibly Creamery.

The Committee discussed briefly, the short term disability insurance, AFLAC, that is currently available at a reduced rate to all Town Employees. It is their choice if they decide to enroll in that, and several have done that to date.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 8:10 pm, the motion passed unanimously. The next meeting of this Committee is Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 6:30 pm in the downstairs Community room at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary A. Rice, Secretary