

TOWN OF ROCKLAND  
FINANCE COMMITTEE  
February 17 ,2021

TOWN CLERK, ROCKLAND  
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Signing in for this virtual Finance Committee meeting of February 17, 2021 were Chairman John Pumphrey, Julie Shaffer, Bill Principe, Bill Stuart, Craig Maroney, Jeff Leafer, Joe Gambon, Meghan Rooney and Bob MacDonald. Sheila Mulcahy and Lori Childs were absent. John Pumphrey read aloud a statement that the meeting was being recorded and could be reproduced.

Also signing into our virtual meeting was Town Accountant Biz Zaleski, and Town Administrator Doug Lapp, Tim White, Peg Byran, Eugene Gingras, John Lewellen and Scott Duffey.

The Council on Aging budget was reviewed by Peg Byron and it was explained the need for a \$4000.00 increase in "Maintenance of Building" At this time services are restricted to 10 people in attendance at a time. Most of the services now are for Food Stamps and Fuel assistance. There are no Articles planned for the Town Meeting Warrant.

The Veterans budget was reviewed by Tim White. The main line in the budget is for Benefits in the amount of \$270,000 which is presented knowing that it may change due to people needing assistance. Expenses of the Memorial Parade (\$3000) and the Veterans Parade (\$5500). Biz will look into prior years expenses to find out why the difference is showing in this year's budget.

The Youth Commission/Recreation Dept. budget was explained by Jeanne Blaney. The budget is basically level funded from last year. The programs are coming back since the shut down from the pandemic and she hopes to be at full staff in April. There are no articles planned for

Town Meeting. The building is now fully sprinklered. The third floor is now usable, however the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor ceilings are in need of replacement.

The Police budget was explained by Chief Llewellyn. Expenses are level funded from the previous year. There are two Articles planned. One will be for a new roof on the police station. The cost was estimated last year for \$112,400 but the cost has increased \$5000 since then. The second Article will be for two cruisers costing \$96,000.

The Chief will be retiring in 15 months so he will start the search for a replacement. He states it is very difficult to recruit quality applicants mostly because of the publicity police officers and community involvement has received in the press. The Chief is also advocating for a Police Officer in the new elementary school.

Chief Scott Duffy reviewed the Fire Department Budget which is level funded from last year. The second set of Firemen's gear has been received. That gear was voted approved last year.

The Dispatch budget housed in Holbrook is working well. Grants and money from the Care Act have cut \$150,000 out of the dispatch budget, however it is a temporary reduction. The responsibility will return and the town will need the full line item in the future.

Emergency Management is also level funded in this year's budget. There will be two Articles: One is the second payment for the command vehicles at \$23,000 and 2. a new engine truck for \$600,000. Scott relayed that the current engine is "falling apart".

The Data Processing/IT Department reviewed the budget and pointed out the increase in computer Services and it is for ZOOM connections for all town department meetings.

There will not be any Articles this year.

Biz reported that Free Cash has been certified at \$2,111,477. She also provided a spread sheet showing the distribution.

The Stabilization Fund balance is \$1.35 million as of 2/17/21.

Trash fees are probably going to increase to be self-sustaining. The Town cost went up 6%.

Motion was made to approve the February 3, 2010 meeting minutes by Joe Gambon seconded by Bill Principe. A unanimous vote of approval was made.

A motion was made by Joe Gambon to approve the Minutes of February 10<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Bill Principe and an approval vote was unanimous.

Joe Gambon made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Bill Principe. Vote to adjourn at 9:45pm was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by Julie Shaffer, Secretary.

