

M i n u t e s
Plainfield Finance Committee Meeting
Wednesday, April 17, 2019, 7 p.m.
in Town Hall

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in Town Hall. Present were Bob Baker, Bob Persing, Lew Robbins, and David Kramer (chair). Tim Walter and Roberta Woodridge were absent. Town accountant Paula King was also present.

The committee discussed with Paula the desirability and feasibility of reducing the budget. In favor the desirability of cuts is the fact that if all budget requests are approved, there will be an increase in the tax levy of 11.9%, and with a 1.9% COLA, that number would rise to over 12%. On the other hand, if the budget is too tightly restricted, it is more difficult to fund unforeseen expenses at the end of the fiscal year, such as highway department overruns and emergency repairs undertaken by the Buildings Committee.

In consultation with Paula King, the committee decided to reduce the number and amount of its budget cuts but to leave certain cuts in place, recommending an increase in the Emergency Fund to \$10,000 from \$5,000 to allow for more funding of unanticipated expenses.

The committee voted to recommend to the town a cost of living adjustment (COLA) of 1.9%.

There were several proposed budget cuts for which the committee sought further consultation with the relevant department or committee, including Police, Highway, Emergency Management, Board of Health, and Cemetery Commission. The committee gave the chairman authorization to revise the affected budget lines based on those conversations.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Submitted by David Kramer, secretary