

2024-4-1 Finance Committee meeting minutes

Meeting started at 6:00 P.M. In attendance were Bob Baker, Roberta Wooldridge, David Honneus, Susi Westwood, and Judy Cole, Selectboard Liaison. Jeanne Sergeant and Jack Nelson were guests.

Minutes of 3/18 were approved unanimously.

Paula, the town accountant suggested that money for Police Dept that we put into a separate Stabilization Fund be added to the general stabilization fund. We could do that this year and move into and designate it for a special fund next year. Bob will check with Paula to see if there is time to set it up this year.

We need a stipend policy. The way they are now is all over the place.

Fire Dept has asked to add \$18, 000 to fix the walkway up to the building.

Stipend for the Tree Warden will be tabled as Bob Mellstrom is not running again. We will show it was asked for but we didn't recommend.

The Historical Society is level. Upper Pioneer Vets Benefits went up a bit.

It has been found that the town moderator can appoint select board members to the finance comm. without a warrant article. The select board will determine who is to be appointed.

There was discussion of the Police Dept building and whether things were being done correctly or not.

Kimberly Longey joined to present the budget for the MLP and to discuss the running of it. She spoke to the select board about setting up a working group to plan the future of the MLP. There was a working group before the program got started. The money for the debt comes from a special warrant article so we don't want to ask to raise and appropriate it.

Roberta has been checking with other towns around us to find out what COLA amount they are using. She has heard from Windsor, Hawley and Chesterfield. She will try to get a response from the towns who didn't respond. The numbers she got went from 3% to 5%.

There has been an application to increase the solar farm that is in town.
We need to be involved in the agreement over financial agreements.

We will meet over zoom on Monday 4-8 at 5:00

Meeting adjourned at 7:41

Submitted by susi westwood