Advisory Meeting, 2/27/2023 Approved 3/6/23

Melville Room, Town Hall

Meeting began at 6:05 PM.

Present: Carol Fitzgerald, Sandra Sheehan, Doug Boyd, Kathy Pessolano, Heather Turcotte

Guests: Richard Patullo, Cliff Bombard, John Flynn, Craig Rivest, Don Davenport, Bob Markel, Pam Courtney, Robin Warner

Agenda: Review of department budgets for FY 2024.

Minutes

Minutes were not available for review.

Fire Department

Chief Ed Poulin and Jane Budynkiewicz presented the Fire Department budget. Salaries for chief and fire officers will be increased by the standard COLA. A new account has been added for Training at $2500. It is different than the Training Stipend as it will reimburse staff for EMT licenses and pay for training expenses. Ed will provide Advisory with new figures to ensure that the Stipend line pays for salary expenses only, while the Training line is for training costs and reimbursement.

Highway Department

Mark Langone presented the Highway Department budget. The highway contracts were reopened based on a provision related to an increase in CPI. Based on this, salaries are subject to a 4% increase for FY 2024 only.

General Highway Account increased about $2700 for inflation. This includes office supplies, general supplies and training. Road Machinery Maintenance has also increased due to inflationary factors for parts and labor. Building Utilities has increased for electricity purposes.

Discussion about an increase to Snow and Ice. We spent $257,000 last year (budget is $100,000) and the BOS and Advisory are wondering whether it should be increased by $10,000- 20,000 at this point. The amount cannot be reduced in future years. We will make a final decision after all budget items have been examined.

Mark was able to get an additional $179,000 for paving last year. Given the extent of paving needed each year, we could use more funding in this account if there is opportunity.

Mark also indicated that he anticipates a warrant article to replace the 1993 Mack dump truck at an estimated cost of $215,000.

Board of Assessors

Norm Charest and Kelly McCormick presented the Assessor’s budget. Salaries are affected by the 4% COLA as well as a proposed increase in hours for the Principal Assessor. They are looking at 5 additional hours in large part due to the solar activity and an increase in required training. There is significant work with developers and attorneys. The Department of Revenue requires a new growth template and a review of every deed.

The figures for software, mapping, and utilities are all based on quotes. Expenses will increase by $250.

For FY 2023, they are likely to go over budget for the Principal Assessor due to a requirement to create a data collection manual by the Fall. The BOS is also having the Principal Assessor join the fire inspector to verify new home information at the time of a sale.

Doug made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Heather second. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Recorded by Carol Fitzgerald