

Town of Ashby, Massachusetts

Finance Committee Meeting

March 26, 2019

Begin: 7:31

Present: Kevin Stetson (Chair), Kathy Panagiotes, Sharon Stetson

Guests: Cory Harju, Gary Asher, Linda Stacy, Nancy Catalini, Linda Mikkola, Peg VanHillo, Janet Flinkstrom, Bob Hansom, Jennifer Collins, Tiffany Call,

Minutes of February held; lack of quorum for vote.

Discussion:

COA: member attended to advocate for the elders of Ashby to have a more available director. Budget requested to be increased to \$8959.00 for 571 director hrs/year. MA COA grants 3 hrs/wk towards director salary. Director awaits a job description.

RFT 19-08 Zoning Board expense line is 0.00. Requests 83.81 for advertising. Vote tabled, no quorum

Budget: Lively discussion of FY20 preliminary budget having shortfall of \$240,797. NMRHS budget has decreased \$50,000. Employee benefits (contractual obligations) have increased by 12%. FinCom suggests all departments work on a Capital Plan for coming years; suggests reviewing the need for bonding, what would our bond rating be at this time? If all budget lines are level funded, budget may balance; would still need to include employee benefits. Budget must be posted by April 18 in preparation for Annual Town Meeting.

Town Hall Repairs: Twelve roofers contacted; no one willing yet to take on the job.

FinCom and BOS will meet jointly on April 3 at 7pm.

Kevin suggests changing By-Laws to state: FinCom 5 members (difficult to find members to be interested), and BOS 5 members.

Adjourned: 9:15pm

Next Meetings: April 9 and 23—Chair is unable to be present. Meetings will be held with 3 members.

Kathy Panagiotes

Secretary