

Town of Charlton

Finance Committee Minutes

Senior Center, Town Hall

Date: January 24, 2024, at 6:30 PM

Minutes taken by: Jaclyn Bonner, Clerk

Attendees: Henry Camosse Jr.-Chairman, Jeremy Foskett, Jamie Terry, Keith Johnson and Raymond Belsito, Kristen Lemire

Absent: Mike Jacobs

Guests: Ashley Obrzut -Town Finance Director, Andrew Golas – Town Administrator

1. Call Meeting to order at time.

The meeting was called to order by Hank Camosse Jr. at 6:30 P.M on Wednesday January 24th.

2. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

N/A

3. Budget Hearing

a. Police Department

- The chief of police Daniel Dowd attends the meeting to discuss his FY25 operating budget and capital requests (attached).
- Hank asking when the union contract will be renegotiated. The chief responds that the PD will be without a contract as of July 1st 2024. The current budget reflects current salary levels.
- Hank asking about staffing levels at the PD considering the increase in road work on rt. 20. The Chief responding that the town's decision to use civilians as auxiliary officers has been successful and other communities are looking to do the same.
- Hank asking if the cruisers ordered in 2023 were finally delivered to which the chief responds – yes. However one of these cars has already been totaled and will need to be replaced.
- The chief sharing that the PD has recently completed training for new body worn cameras.

- Canine expenses have increased 3.9% since the PD currently supports 3 canines.
- Hank asking why the tactical gear/asher capital request for \$50K is only listed for 2025. The chief explains that the item is a heavy-duty shield & should be a one-time purchase since the item is durable. Terry asking for the definition of 'asher' & the chief explains it is an acronym for 'Active Shooter Hostile Event Response'.
- Jamie asking if the additional canines have been worth the expense. The chief responds that indeed they have been – and are utilized often by other communities and SEMLAC.
- The chief is thinking about leasing administrator and canine vehicles to save money. In speaking to other communities, he found that companies offer municipalities lease to own contracts which are beneficial.

b. DPW

- The DPW superintendent Nick Piehl attends the meeting to discuss his FY25 operating and capital budgets (attached).
- Nick explaining that the cost of heavy machinery has increased significantly in the past few years.
- The town's landscaping contract with CCL will be up for extension next year & the vendor is requesting to be paid over 6 months versus 12 months.
- Nick explaining that the storm water management line item for construction drainage expenses increased due to increased costs related to removing debris from catch basins.
- The finance director reminding the committee we will rarely see a change in the snow and ice line item because the town is legally allowed to deficit spend this budget.
- The DPW is requesting to purchase a second street sweeper for \$300K to keep up with state mandated regulations. Jeremy asking what the consequence would be if the town was unable to meet the regulation. Andrew clarifying that we hold a federal permit which allows the town to dump water into waterways & failure to meet requirements can result in fines. Hank asking if the fines

would amount to more than \$300K (the cost of the new street sweeper).

Andrew replying the fines are indeed as high if not higher. Nick adding that the price of machinery continues to increase.

- Jamie asking if there are grants available from the EPA to offset some of the costs placed on the town. Ashley responding the EPA gave us a one time sum to kick off storm water but will not be offering any additional assistance going forward. Jamie stating that we should not put off any expenditures necessary to maintain our MS4 compliance as we have private wells in the community.
- Hank questions the estimated price of a new truck in 2027 for \$55K.
- Nick mentions that the DPW building may be in need of repair in the upcoming year's, but this is not on the capital request schedule.

4. Basic Introduction to Clear Gov

The town administrator purchased new budgeting software in FY23 which is being used to compile the FY25 budget. The committee has been given login credentials for access to the site. He provides a quick overview of how to use the tool to produce reports. Hank urges the committee to spend some time with the program.

5. Zoom Meeting Discussion

Hank would like to see a zoom link on every agenda going forward. Jamie adds that the capability is nice for members who can't always attend in person.

6. Other Business not Known at the Time of Posting

N/A

7. Adjourn Meeting

Motion to Adjourn at 8:07 was made by Raymond Belsito and seconded by Jamie Terry. All present in favor and the motion is approved. The meeting is adjourned.

Action Items:

- **The committee will need to add reorganization to the agenda due to the resignation of the vice chair.**

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Voted: NA

X _____
Henry Camosse Jr.

X _____
Keith Johnson

X _____
Jeremy Foskett

X _____
Jamie Terry

X _____
Kristen Lemire

X _____
Mike Jacobs

X _____
Raymond Belsito

X _____
Alternate