

## Town of Charlton

### Finance Committee Minutes

#### Remote Zoom Meeting

Date: September 29, 2021, at 6:30pm

Minutes taken by: Jaclyn Bonner, Clerk

**Attendees:** John Grondalski-Vice Chairman, Keith Johnson, Henry Camosse-Chairman, Kristen Lemire, Kristin Kustigian, Carol Brodeur

**Absent:** Jason Julian

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

#### 1. Call meeting to order at time

Meeting was called to order by John Grondalski at 6:33pm on Wednesday September 29, 2021.

#### 2. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

- a. Motion to Accept the Minutes of August 18, 2021, was made by Hank Camosse and Seconded by Keith Johnson. Roll Call: Hank Camosse, Keith Johnson, John Grondalski, and Kristen Lemire vote yes; Carol Brodeur and Kristin Kustigian abstain. The minutes were approved.

#### 3. Free Cash

- a. Ashley Obrzut confirms that free cash has still not been certified as of today's meeting but should be soon.

#### 4. 5 yr Capital Plan / Capital Expenditures for FTM

- a. Ashley Obrzut explains the updated CIP Budget FY22 spreadsheet.
  - i. New projects include: \$100K for carpet replacement at Charlton elementary and \$30K for smoke detector replacement at Charlton middle school. Additionally, the schools requested money for roof replacement which is still under consideration and not included on this budget spreadsheet. Andrew Golas explained further that this project may not be taken on for 4 to 5 years.
  - ii. New items under Borrowing Projects include: \$2M related to the flint rd. landfill for the BOH. Andrew explains new guidelines mandated by the DEP related to funding mechanisms.
- b. Andrew Golas mentions that we do not plan on spending all free cash available.
- c. Ashley Obrzut asked for any input from the board related to free cash. John G. responded that everything looks consistent and is good for now.
- d. Andrew explains the American Recovery Act Proposed Budget Plan. We are projected to receive \$4M. The proposed budget is an outline for expenditure.
  - i. John G. asked Andrew G. to define the \$190K 'Premium Pay' line items listed. Premium pay under the American recovery act allows you to use the funds to pay employees up

to \$13 more per hr. who worked during the pandemic. Our thought process would be to use this as incentive money for vaccinated employees versus doing a mandate.

- ii. Hank Camossee asked if we can use the money to pay for past expenditures. Andrew answers that we cannot. He continues to explain the money can only be used for: response to the public health emergency or its negative economic consequences; provision of premium pay to eligible workers; revenue replacement; and Investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure. The covered period for State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds must be obligated by 2024 to be spent by the end of 2025.
- iii. John G. asked about the COA line item for \$50K. Andrew responded that we are looking into moving the Senior center to a new facility possibly a facility that is already built (possibly overlook).

#### **5. FTM Calendar**

- a. Fall town meeting is set for the 15<sup>th</sup> of November. Next FinCom meeting will be October 20<sup>th</sup> in the senior center and will include the board of selectman.

#### **6. Other agenda items not known at the time of this posting**

- a. John G: LNG host agreement includes \$50K for a capital stabilization fund and asked if we plan on creating one at Town Meeting. Andrew says yes we have that on fall town meeting warrant. Ashley states that the thought process was to put some money aside to pay for future capital needs, something that is not specific but anything capital related.
- b. Hank states that he would rather see something specific like something towards vehicles since those are smaller but still large projects. He says that it's a lot easier for people to vote yes to spend out of it when it has a specific purpose.
- c. John G calls attention to the amazon project webpage. The webpage outlines pending and finalized details of our agreement with amazon. Andrew estimates that the Amazon project will reduce the average taxpayer's bill by \$500.

#### **7. Adjourn Meeting**

- a. Motion to accept the end the meeting at 7:10PM was made by Keith Johnson and Seconded by Hank Camosse. All members present in favor. Meeting is adjourned at 7:10 PM on September 29th. Meeting Adjourned
  - i. Next Meeting will be 20<sup>th</sup> Wednesday in October 2021.

Town of Charlton Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Voted:

X 

Henry Camosse

X 

John Grondalski

X

Keith Johnson

X

Jason Julian

X 

Kristin Kustigian

X 

Carol Brodeur

X

Kristen Lemire

X

Alternate

