

Town of Ashby, Massachusetts

**Finance Committee Meeting**

**January 28, 2014**

Present: Kevin Stetson (chair), Terrence Myles, Liryc Donald, Kathy Panagiotes, Joe Armstrong-Champ

Guests:

Bob Hanson, Bill Davis

Start: 7:33pm

Old Business:

No old business reviewed.

New Business:

Bill Davis handed packets of information to FinCom, partially in response to the question of why there was \$52,000.00 in expenditures from the Highway Department in 30 days, and partially to justify his RFT. Packet and info from Bill:

- In 1992 it was voted upon by Ashby to allow the Highway Dept. to plow private roads
- Dept. does not have a full crew; Bill and the mechanic both plow and there is still one less employee.
- The snow total was 34.3 inches but many of the days were icy and required more salting.
- Salt is \$60.00 per ton on average at this time.
- Dept. overtime is added here, as well as the expenses of salt, sand, repairs and the numbers of calls from townfolk asking for their road to be sanded/salted.
- New dump truck may be ready in February
  - Truck being replaced will be disposed of
- \$14, 579.92 has been spent on road repairs, pot holes, etc.

FinCom has asked why Mr. Davis reports to the Board of Selectman first and then the Town Administrator.

- In the packet from Bill was a handout; MGL: Ch. 44, Sec. 31D
  - States "...expenditures are approved by the town manager and the finance or advisory committee in a town having a town manager, by the selectman and the finance or advisory committee in any other town...". Bill hopes this amount of RFT money will last until the STM.

RFT: 14-05 Road Maintenance Expense \$7,000.00

APPROVED

Discussion: Budget Process FY15

- Ashby's portion of school bus increase 51,000 +
- March 15 STM (Special Town Meeting)
  - Ashby will be asking to authorize borrowing 89,840,000 +
    - For new High School
    - There are questions about the Service Building being included
- Police Budget: FY13 actual/538,879.28
  - Request FY15 720,218.38
  - 181,339 increase
    - 1 chief, 4 officers, 3 reserve officers
    - at present no administrative assistant who does contracts, budget balances, payroll, scheduling, other office duties
- Beginning May 1 monies can be moved from line to line
- Free Cash approx. 150,165.00
- Local receipts, fees, licenses, etc. 502,730.00
- Tax Levy limit, Max to be raised by taxation 5,103,398.75
- New growth 25,000.00
- State aid 518,847.00

Last FinCom Meeting was held December 10, 2013. Meetings cancelled due to holiday season and/or no business and/or inclement weather. Cancellations are usually posted on the Town Bulletin board in front of the Town Hall.

Next Meeting: February 18 (off schedule so as to move forward with budget process)

Adjourned 9:45

Submitted,

Kathy Panagiotes  
Secretary