

Finance Committee Meeting

October 2, 2013

Joint meeting with Board of Selectman called to order: Kevin Stetson, Chair FinCom and Janet Flinkstrom, Chair BOS 7:10 pm

Present: Kevin Stetson, Kathy Panagiotes, Liryc Donald, Dick Doucette, Terry Miles (FinCom); Janet Flinkstrom, Mike McCallum, Steve Ingerson, (BOS)

Opening: This is a formal meeting and we invite informality.

Discussion:

1. Concerns raised by FinCom over several months
 - Cost to town for high school building project
 - Hawthorne Brook septic project cost
 - Condition of town buildings in need of immediate repair
 - Future of Grange Hall
 - Imminent need for Police Station
 - Well water into center of town

BOS:

- Grant money covered feasibility study for water project. Various costs and approaches are being reviewed
 - TA sent e-mail outlining costs of septic and HS
 - Ashby pays as its share approximately 27% of all school projects; this is based on school enrollment
 - Numbers from town accountant (Terry Walsh via BOS);
 - roof on AES = \$203,000 (FY14)
 - Debt service to NMRSD line item = $\$200,000 \times 2 + 65,000$ = to be done in 3 payments
 - Total approximately \$665,505
2. Difficult to meet together and with TA because of various times of meetings and short hours of TA.
 3. We agree Ashby needs to be cautious of spending.
 4. Who decides how and when money is spent? For example:
 - Green Energy grant to be allocated; \$130,000
 - If used in Town Hall, building could gain 20% energy efficiency

- After money is used, more can be available
 - Green Energy Committee is moving forward
 - \$30,000 was allocated at Town Meeting
5. Town does not have “maintenance” Department. Might need to go through BOS via TA from each committee
- question for TA: do we have a log or accounting of all Town equipment and how it is managed?
 - Do we have a matching amount of money for well? \$5,000.00
6. TA is overseeing/allocating funds for projects
- BOS are appraised of all town projects and their implications for taxpayers
 - Hawthorne Brook septic; \$15, 000 yearly
 - Water Project results expected mid-December
 - Committee is researching money that may be available
 - Options will be reviewed
 - Cost estimate is one million dollars per mile
7. BOS: towns are beholdng to Federal and State laws
- Must have: consultants, engineers, professional reports, stamps of approval from various regulating agencies
8. Further discussion:
- is there potential to have a municipal building for Police Station and others
 - is the HS a 30 year debt exclusion?
 - Road repairs: cost \$100,000 per mile to repave. Chapter 90 money was once available, not so easily obtained now
 - Several years ago, a \$3.2 million Police Station was not approved by the town
 - Could Monty Tech build a Police Station
 - Could it be housed at the end of the AES?
 - Could police move to Legion Building or Grange?
 - There is no matching money from the government for any grants
 - Our town wants local police and local dispatch
 - Town is tight for money because we paid cash, \$200,000, out of the general fund, for the 1st year payment
9. FinCom would like to be invited to the Department Head meetings. Some members may be able to attend daytime meetings.
- Need to know where and when
 - Does each department have a inventory list
 - Do they have a “capital” plan; future needs, etc.
 - Ex: cemetery space is diminishing; Glenwood has space but West has a little more to clear, but not much left; does the committee have a long term plan.

10. Who is actually in charge of the Town of Ashby? The Voters

11. A final word from the BOS; the town is in good financial shape. At this time there is no debt.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm
Meeting filmed

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathleen Panagiotes