

# *Ware Finance Committee*

January 6, 2015

Selectmen's Conference Room

Present: Denis R. Ouimette, Daniel J. O'Connor, Scott Mosso

Absent: Janice E. Hills, Brendan O'Neil

Guest(s): none

Quorum met, meeting opened at 7:10 pm.

Reserve Fund balance: **\$42,700.00**

## **New Business:**

FY'16 FinComm budget: Per request, two budgets were prepared: level funded and one reflecting a **6% cut**. The level funded budget would be the same as FY'15: *Operating Expenses \$455, Reserve Fund \$50,000*. A 6% reduction (**\$3,027.30**) produces: *Operating Expenses \$276, Reserve Fund \$47,151.70*. We will live with the expense reduction, but the Reserve Fund is for the benefit of all the other departments and would leave a much smaller cushion in the budget than the \$100,000 amount that was budgeted for several years previously. The cut in the expense line item will mean no members of FinComm will be reimbursed for the cost of attending the annual ATFC conference, or for the mileage. Motion to approve by Dan, seconded by Scott passed 3-0.

On the subject of the whole town budget, one recommendation that will be made by FinComm to the TM is to boost the Town Hall workers' salary by 3% (**\$22,000**) next year; the feeling is that they have been disproportionately affected salary-wise than the other departments. This was so because their department budgets are salary-heavy (few supply, service or capital needs) and therefore the greatest cuts came directly from the workers; Denis to email the TM with this recommendation. The current feeling is that the funds could come from reserves, but a recurring expense should never come from a one-time or unreliable revenue source.

Budgets are due back to the TM by January 23, 2015. Reviews and recommendations occur during February; then budget is given to FinComm on March 2, 2015. Joint presentation with BOS in April; Town Meeting is **Monday, May 11, 2015**.

Pathfinder: Ware's pro rata amount of the budget was reduced (as were each member community) because Pathfinder exceeded their 5% excess reserve. As such, Ware's share is being reduced to **\$1,017,965.16**, a savings of **\$64,034.90** from the previous budgeted amount of \$1,082,000.

Pathfinder is celebrating 40+ years in tech education and has invited FinComm to the party on **May 6, 2015 at 6:30pm**.

Denis will contact Pathfinder to ask the *number of Ware students in attendance* and what *courses* the majority are taking.

ATFC manual: The 2014 edition of the FinComm manual on CD was handed out to each member in attendance. The CDs are one of the benefits of current membership in the ATFC.

Senate emails: Emails from the Governor reducing the *Local Aid* by **\$25.5 million**, then later restored by the House reviewed.

Beacon: two (2) issues handed out.

**Old Business:**

The minutes of September 25, 2014, were motioned for approval by Scott and seconded by Dan; passed by a 3-0 vote.

The minutes of October 30, 2014, were motioned for approval by Dan and seconded by Scott; passed by a 3-0 vote.

**Next Meeting:** TBD

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm; motion to adjourn made by Denis, seconded by Scott and approved by 3-0 vote.

January 6, 2015, Minutes reviewed and approved:

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