



CARVER FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES OF JUNE 5, 2023 MEETING

Present: Chairman Alan Germain, Vice Chair Elizabeth Sulger, Ron Clarke, Walter Cole, Tony Macrina, and Patrick Meagher.

Absent: Bill Cullum

Also Present: Recording Secretary Ashley Swartz.

Mr. Germain opened the meeting at 6:38 PM

Pledge of Allegiance.

Public comment – hearing none

Town Administrator and Finance Director updates.

Sue and Bob were unable to attend this evening.

Sue sent a preliminary budget status year end FY23. They will continue this conversation, particularly around the legal budget. The police salaries also need to be reviewed because of the overtime budget. The chief believes there is about \$50-\$60k in the accounts they can draw from. There is also \$125k in the finance committee reserve account. The general budget can be cut, according to Sue, and Mr. Germain wants to review this.

Mr. Meagher asked if there were any contractual negotiations regarding the legal services (or are we getting sued). Mr. Germain said these expenses were litigations and public records requests, but he was not aware of what departments were using this money. He has asked for this to be broken out by Sue and Bob. He was also asking if Social Security and Medicare was a payroll deduction.

Mr. Clarke said he would like to see the legal breakdown – especially knowing there was a suit against Town Meeting in the past. For the General Budget supplement, Mr. Clarke asked for clarity around whether or not that was extra/overages. He wanted to see if this money could cover the overages in other areas.

Mr. Germain said they would receive the breakdown for Legal in their email in the upcoming weeks.

Grant Application.

Shane Gives Thanks/ Payton Pack.

Payton Pack started when Shane learned about the free lunches on the weekend for students. This includes 2 breakfasts, 2 lunch, 2 dinner, 8 snacks – they are delivered to schools on Friday and

can be taken home. There is no cost for the program for students and there are 96 students on the program. They have students with dietary restrictions which incur more cost. Mr. Cole explained that the costs for this can be around \$18,000. Mr. Germain asked how many families were using the program – 1,241 families and 396 individual families. Mr. Clarke asked how the grant would be distributed. This one will be earmarked for Payton Pack but the check will be made to Shane Gives Thanks, Inc. There is a limit to only give one grant per 50c3. Mr. Cole added that no one gets paid – this is all volunteers and donations – there is no salaries taken. The grant helps cover the costs to “keep the lights on”. Ms. Sulger made a motion to grant \$5,000 for Shane Gives Thanks/Payton Pack, seconded by Mr. Clarke, approved 5-0-1 with Mr. Cole abstaining. Mr. Germain asked for an invoice to send the funds.

Approval of minutes of meeting:

Motion to approve minutes of May 8, 2023 made by Ms. Sulger, seconded by Mr. Clarke, approved 6-0-0.

Committee member comments.

Mr. Meagher noted the work done by Finance Committee and Capital Outlay to complete the town hall updates.

The bids for the roofs are going out – Mr. Germain gave some information about the rooves for Town Hall and the Library.

Mr. Germain wanted to note the work done by Signs by Design – who completed the emblems on Town Hall.

Mr. Meagher asked about the “50/50” insurance stating that it should be revisited. He said a former Town Administrator drove a lot of decisions based on OPEB – noting the positive effects on the bond rating, but thinks there is reason to revisit this. Mr. Clarke said the state intervened regarding meeting fiscal responsibility. Mr. Meagher just wanted to understand the least they could contribute while maintaining the bond rating. Mr. Germain said his problem with “50/50” was it didn’t help the people who were hired under “75/25”. He gave an example of the police department coming out of Civil Service – which provides an easier process to hire officers. They needed to provide decent packages and wages, as leverage to getting more seasoned officers coming to Carver.

Mr. Meagher also added that he wanted to hear about the school department budget – being the biggest budget in the town – explaining what they have been doing and plan to be doing with their budget.

There was a discussion about planning for the next budget season – items they would like to cover and processes they would like to see.

Next meeting date: June 22 and July 10, 2023 (transfer request for year-end).

Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Sulger, seconded by Mr. Clarke. Approved unanimously 6-0-0.
Adjournment 7:27 PM.

Minutes submitted by Ashley Swartz.

Voted and Approved