



CARVER FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES OF JULY 10, 2023, MEETING

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

Also Present: Town Administrator Bob Fennessey, Finance Director Sue Moquin, and Recording Secretary Ashley Swartz.

Mr. Germain opened the meeting at 6:40PM

Pledge of Allegiance.

Public comment – hearing none

Town Administrator and Finance Director updates.

Year-end interdepartmental transfer requests

Bob explained each line item on the report shared with the Committee. There are fuel and propane charges, litigation fees, a new planner, committee stipends, police salaries and Medicare costs that need to be accounted for.

These items can be covered through transfers from: Town Hall additional hours, municipal insurance, select board contractual, accounting salaries, town IT, Old Colony assessment, town wide maintenance contracts and interest on temporary loans.

Mr. Meagher questioned if any of these transfers were a result of frivolous spending. Bob said this is a significant part of the need for transfers. He further explained that legal tends to be difficult to predict. He said people have a right to sue, complain, etc. and they can defend it, but they can't shut it down. Mr. Germain added that in the state of Massachusetts there is nothing that would clarify the numerous requests as harassment. Bob followed up that the town of Carver is not alone in these situations - social media feeds the fire of these situations which add to additional costs. Mr. Germain said he asked for the legal department budget to be broken down - without unnecessary information - to see where the legal expenses are coming from and see what boards and committees are incurring what costs. Mr. Cole asked if any of these fees can be recouped but it doesn't appear to be something that will happen. There was further discussion about how this money is broken down, as well as looking into flat rates for some fees and hourly rates for other fees. Ms. Sulger asked how the increased hourly fees are going to be covered with next year's budget - she also requested the current numbers to see what the budget was and what

has currently been spent. Mr. Germain said the only line item that was a concern for him was the police salaries. Ms. Sulger made a motion to recommend the budget transfers for \$334,845 for the estimated needs from the possible sources listed, seconded by Mr. Meagher, approved unanimously 5-0-0.

Additionally, the Fire Department is requesting a transfer from their salaries to the SCBA gear (self-funded transfer of \$22,100). Their current packs are not compatible with their existing equipment. The equipment standards changed in 2021 and they need to pivot quickly. Mr. Germain clarified that this is just a journal entry since the money is already budgeted. He added that because this is a safety concern, this would be funded regardless of where the money came from.

Motion to approve the transfer \$22,100 from the salary surplus to the SCBA gear made by Mr. Meagher, seconded by Ms. Sulger, approved unanimously 5-0-0.

Transfer requests from the reserve account.

There is a request for the reserve fund to fund the following items: accounting, assessing salaries, legal personal matters, and disallowed COVID19 CARES costs. These transfers equal \$125,000. They will need four separate transfer requests.

Motion to approve the use of the finance committee reserve funds of \$9,500 for accounting, made by Ms. Sulger, approved unanimously 5-0-0.

Motion to approve the use of the finance committee reserve funds of \$5,500 for Assessing Salaries made by Ms. Sulger, approved unanimously 5-0-0.

Motion to approve the use of the finance committee reserve funds of \$80,000 for legal personnel matters, made by Ms. Sulger, approved unanimously 5-0-0.

Motion to approve the use of the finance committee reserve funds of \$30,000 for disallowed COVID19 CARES costs, made by Ms. Sulger, approved unanimously 5-0-0.

Mr. Germain requested formal transfer request forms be presented and asked the committee's permission to sign them when presented. Committee agreed unanimously.

The North Carver Water District is back up and running - and we have switched off the Middleboro water - some negotiations occurred to figure out what needed to be paid and were able to come up with a reasonable amount that both parties are happy with (\$156,000 to be paid and \$146,000 taken in from the residents). Bob commended all parties for working together and finding a number that worked for everyone. Bob said he is going to propose an ARPA transfer for this project - stating the process is almost finished. Mr. Germain pointed out that the NCWD had money in their account and didn't have to pay it out. Bob said it was an option to investigate a metering bid from Middleboro - potentially disbanding the NCWD. Bob added that the NCWD commission is doing a great job trying to fix things and keep it afloat. Mr. Germain stated that they could tap into Plymouth Street - without infrastructure changes - and add the meter.

Vote to appoint a Finance Committee representative to Capital Outlay As required by bylaw.

Mr. Cole nominated Ms. Sulger as the representative for Capital Outlay seconded by Mr. Meagher, voted 4-0-1, with Ms. Sulger abstained.

Approval of minutes of meeting: 06-05-23.

Ms. Sulger made a motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Mr. Meagher, approved unanimously 5-0-0.

Mr. Germain said the United Parish has put in a grant application - they have an oil tank leaking in their basement (on their dirt floor). He clarified that if they are not requesting items like stained glass, pews, etc., they can receive a grant. They will need to come in for the grant application - they are currently running a fundraiser and once they determine how much they have, they will adjust the application appropriately.

Committee member comments.

Next meeting date: July 31, 2023, at 6:30PM.

Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Sulger, seconded by Mr. Meagher. Approved unanimously 5-0-0.

Adjournment 7:37 PM.

Minutes submitted by Ashley Swartz.