



CARVER FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES OF JANUARY 3, 2019 MEETING

Present: Chairman Alan Germain, Kathryn Bandzul, Vice Chairman, William Duggan, Beth Sulger, George Callahan, John Cotter, Jr. and Town Administrator Michael Milanoski. Also present: Marianne MacLeod, Recording Secretary.

Chairman Germain called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m., with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Germain introduced new member, Beth Sulger. Joseph Patton rendered his resignation today. Mr. Germain thanked him for his service. Mr. Germain also mentioned that tonight's meeting is not being recorded.

Public Comment.

None.

Presentation by and discussion with Seth Pickering, Green Communities, Mass DOER/Mass DEP. The financial and conservation advantages of moving to a "Green Community".

There was a handout presented to the committee members at the last meeting. He started by explaining what he does. The program started in 2008/2009. They are trying to reduce the amount of energy used by municipalities. Over \$100 million has been granted since 2010. Mr. Pickering reviewed the handout. There are 240 designated Green Communities in Massachusetts. He shared local communities that are in the program. He offered to share contact information for people from these other local communities. This program is funded up to \$20 million per year. The funding is strong. Their goal is to have as many towns in Massachusetts as possible to join this program. The program is saving towns approximately \$10 million per year. The initial grant is based on the population of the town and per capita income. After joining the program, there are grants available every year – this isn't a one-time grant. Competitive grants are up to \$250,000.

Mr. Germain asked what the grant money goes to. Mr. Pickering explained the grants pay for lighting in schools, municipal buildings, HVAC systems, etc. They would work with Eversource, who would perform audits on the buildings. He shared a link to their website where a map can be accessed and shows all the towns in the program. Mr. Germain will forward the link to the rest of the committee members.

There are five criteria for qualification, which are included in the handout. Two of the five criteria are already in place for Carver.

The application cycle is that applications are received in the fall of the calendar year. Towns can go back two fiscal years. Mr. Milanoski said there is a lot of need in the middle/high school.

Mr. Cotter asked if the stretch code has changed. Mr. Pickering explained that the base code has become almost the same as the stretch code. He asked if there are costs incurred by builders for the stretch code? Mr. Milanoski shared that the initial version was for renovations, repairs and additions. This is no longer true. There are less “strings” attached to this program.

To be designated as a Green Community, you have to abide by the five qualifications.

Towns apply in the fall and are notified in December.

Mr. Pickering offered to come back and do a cost/benefit analysis at a later date.

Mr. Milanoski suggested having a local developer come before the committee to discuss their current experience with this program.

Mr. Pickering explained that the money for grants is already part of the electric bills Carver residents pay.

Mr. Cotter made a Motion to continue discussion to a later date, seconded by Mr. Callahan, voted and passed unanimously 6-0-0.

Creating a template for the non-profit grant program to be put into warrant for Town Meeting. This was voted to support the program from our last meeting.

Mr. Germain would like to set a cap in grant money available, i.e., \$20,000 or \$25,000 annual cap, with \$5,000 individual cap, and only a limited number of times someone can apply for a grant. He would like the recipient come before the Finance Committee and share how they used the grant, i.e., how many Carver residents benefited from the grant. Currently there is no vetting in place and no accountability after the fact. This year’s requests total \$23,000.

Ms. Sulger has experience with grants and offered to put sample information together for possible grants for the next meeting.

Ms. Bandzul made a Motion to cap at \$25,000, seconded by Mr. Cotter, voted and passed unanimously 6-0-0.

Ms. Bandzul made a Motion to cap the individual amount of grant to \$5,000 per applicant, seconded by Mr. Callahan, voted and passed unanimously 6-0-0.

Mr. Germain would like to put a deadline that coincides with the warrant deadline. The vetting process and accountability factor needs to be included in the grant application.

Also, the money awarded needs to be spent before applying for another grant, as well as putting a limit on the number of times a grant can be received.

Discussion will continue on this at the next meeting.

***Go over the draft article wording for fixing reasonable fees MGL Chapter 40, Section 22F.
This was continued from last meeting.***

A handout from Meg LeMay was given to the committee. The article for license fees will go before Town Meeting.

Ms. Bandzul made a Motion to accept the article as written, seconded by John Cotter, voted and passed unanimously 6-0-0.

Update on town budget and capital budget from Town Administrator

Mr. Milanoski handed out the 10-year pro forma. FY2020. He reviewed budget numbers with the committee.

Mr. Milanoski handed out Final Approved Capital Plan for FY2020. \$1,997,210 total. Request total is \$1,137,500. Mr. Milanoski reviewed the figures with the committee.

Mr. Milanoski handed out the proposed operating budget for FY2020. He reviewed each Department total. This will be reviewed in more detail at future Finance Committee meetings.

Read and approve minutes of 11/27/2018 meeting.

Mr. Cotter made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Ms. Bandzul, voted and passed 5-0-1, with Beth Sulger abstaining because she is new to the committee and wasn't at the last meeting.

Future Meeting Date: January 17, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Bandzul made a Motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Cotter, voted and passed unanimously 6-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne MacLeod,
Recording Secretary

Attachments: