

Financial Advisory Committee

Departmental Meetings – December 9, 2013

Members Present: Les Baynes, co-chair; Tom Durawa; Bob Clay.

Others Present: Chief Peter Shemeth; Dep. Chief Alex Schaeffer; Stuart Fuller, Highway; Tony Bettencourt, Police Chief; Tracy Giacomini, Assistant. Margaret Serpa, Arthur Smadbeck and Michael Donaroma, Selectmen; Pam Dolby, Town Administrator.

Meeting called to order at 3 pm – Stuart Fuller, Highway. Stuart gave an overview of his FY15 budget. He replaced 3 employees this year, resulting in a salary savings. He currently has 7 f/t employees. Personnel said they would be upgrading seasonal rates to be more in line with other towns. He updated the FAC on the fact that the new deicing machine is now ready to use for the upcoming weather. He will be adding two new streets lights at Smith Hollow entrances. He expects to replace several shade trees this year. Cost of electricity expected to be reduced this year. FY 16 will then be more accurate due replacement of bulbs. He corrected the line that says “computer equipment” to read “new equipment”. Articles for pavings, resurfacing roads is up, as earlier discussed, due to asphalt costs. We only receive one bid, Lawrence-Lynch and it is not feasible to transport hot asphalt to the Island. He also expects the Chap. 90 state funds to be up to about \$340,000. this year.

Article for sidewalks, drains (handout) Expects to spent \$950,000. Over the next five years, requesting \$200,000. This year.

Article for Chap. 90 borrowing – amount not yet determined.

Article for catch basins , requesting \$20,000.

Article for 2 new lights, Smith Hollow.

Fire/Ambulance – Chief Shemeth and Dep.Chief Alex Schaeffer present. Peter went over the budget items. Many have remained the same; some salary , such as 4th of July coverage is broken out for better Clarity. They are now providing personnel with a \$15./hr payment in order to promote attendance at weekend and weekday courses that cause them to lose pay on their regular jobs. More demands are being added by the state and it is imperative that the personnel be trained. Insurance costs have increased. Coverage limits have been increased for volunteer firefighters. Price costs were researched and were not as high as expected. There are currently 44 volunteer firefighters.

Article to upgrade Scott airpacks. They must be replaced every three years as parts become obsolete. All the Island towns use the same packs.

Alex discussed the addition of one new f/t ambulance employee. Currently, there are 6 f/t employees. There will be costs involved due to training, certifications, etc. When any employee is at training, their shifts must be covered. Expects an increase of \$10,000. over last year’s costs. There are new supplying regulations from the hospital. The old program has been eliminated and the ambulance must restock on

its own. Exchanges with the hospital are no longer available. The billing company is working to improve dialogue with insurance companies because of new health care regulations. Trying to retrieve as much revenue as possible for calls.

Police – Tony Bettencourt, Chief; Tracy Giacomini, assistant – He reported that salaries and overtime will be increased this year. Two officers have been out since spring on recovery leave; overtime has been hit hard. He expects 1 back in January; however, one other officer is out currently and will not be back until April. Building cleaning will go up \$900. this year. Adam has been working on providing laptop computers at a lower cost. They are looking at a leasing option for \$3,500. For a year lease on each one. They are moving to provide tasers for the officers. Hopefully this will prevent future injuries. Vehicle maintenance is down as new vehicles are being added each year. Most officers are on the highest step and increases are mostly longevity. Any new hire is already trained, saving the town costs.

Article will be increased to \$60,000. for new radio equipment and pingers on the water tower and for replacement of two cruisers.