

OCT 13 2020

LUNENBURG TOWN
CLERK OFFICE

Town of Lunenburg



Finance Committee:
Terri Burchfield, Chairman
Michelle Walton, Vice-Chairman
Peter Beardmore, Secretary
John Henshaw
Jay Simeone
David Passios

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Lunenburg Finance Committee June 11, 2020 Meeting

Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting –
Joint Meeting with the Lunenburg Board of Selectmen
Present: Terri Burchfield, Michelle Walton, Peter Beardmore, John Henshaw, Jay
Simeone
Absent: Dave Passios

1. Call to Order

- Terri Burchfield, Chair called the finance committee to and read the Open Meeting and COVID-19 statement.
This meeting was recorded and is viewable on YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MZXiz9iQu3A>

2. Public Comment

- None

3. Town Manager and Finance Director Report

- Cares act funding for approximately \$147K has been received.

4. Minutes

- April 2, 2020, John Henshaw moved to approve, Jay Simeone 2nd (4-0-1, Michelle Walton abstained)

5. FY21 Budget review

- Recommendations for deferred items
 - Article 4 (Passed over) – Peter Beardmore moved to not make a recommendation, Jay Simeone 2nd (unanimous approval)
 - Article 9 (Passed over) – Peter Beardmore moved to not make a recommendation, Jay Simeone 2nd (unanimous approval)

- Terri Burchfield recommended that the committee look at moving any available funds into stabilization and requested a recommendation from the town manager for a recommendation on what capital items cannot be deferred.
- Peter Beardmore questioned if the stabilization fund is the correct place to put the money. The town manager and finance director both recommended that any available funds be put into stabilization (as opposed to reserve). It was unclear if the temporary powers of the BOS with respect to accessing stabilization funds will sunset within FY21. Peter B thought that the reserve account would give us the greatest possible flexibility in the event the school opening costs turned out to be significantly greater than anticipated.
- Generally, the members supported the idea of deferring items on the capital plan and appropriating the remaining free cash to the reserve fund to ensure maximum flexibility.
- Discussion ensued about what capital expenditures could possibly be deferred, deferring on the streetlights article, and moving unappropriated free cash to either stabilization or reserve funds.
- Peter Beardmore moved to recommend against approving Article 21 (streetlights), Michelle Walton 2nd. (Unanimous approval)
- The town manager identified the following capital projects as critical: Culvert, Police Cruiser, SCBA, ACO Vehicle, Asbestos Abatement
- Chief Marino clarified that the cruiser remaining on the capital plan is not a replacement vehicle but intended to outfit new recruits coming out of the academy in July. He also expressed concern with respect to the lead time for vehicles. Further he explained that the current ACO vehicle is not safe and very inefficient, to the point that it isn't usable by the ACO, not does it comply with green communities requirements and may negatively affect availability of further grants. The ACO is currently using her own vehicle but does not have requisite communications capabilities.
- Peter Beardmore floated the idea of deferring all capital items except the cruiser and the Flat Hill culvert design and appropriating the funds to free cash. Generally the committee agreed. Jay Simeone suggested prioritizing the SCBA equipment over the culvert design and closing the road in the area of the culvert.
- The committee took no action.

6. Formation of Debt Group

- Peter Beardmore outlined a proposed charge debt project including:
 - Cost and timeline for anticipated projects that will require borrowing (TCP, THES, 635 Mass Ave., Old Primary School, etc.)
 - Examine the effects on the operating budget and property taxes over time for each project.

- Examine the effects of potential borrowing on bond ratings and the costs of future borrowing.
- John Henshaw offered to help on the project on an ad hoc basis, depending on his available time. Dave Passios will likely participate also.
- The board took no action.

7. Committee Reports

- None

8. Public Comment

- Peter Beardmore noted the recent events in town including the senior class motorcade and the demonstration that was held on the previous Sunday. He echoed the comments that were made by Selectman Jefferies and lauded the Lunenburg Police Department.
- Resident Carl Luck commented that the debt project is a great idea, but recommended opening membership to the public and check with town counsel on open meeting law. He recommended preserving cash with both deferring the streetlights and capital items at town meeting. He is also concerned with funding sources for streetlight replacement, citing a 2017 green communities report.

9. Next Meeting

- Town meeting on Sat, June 13
- June 25

10. Adjournment

- Jay Simeone motion, Peter Beardmore 2nd, Unanimous approval