Town of Colrain - Finance Committee Meeting Minutes **February 19, 2019**

Meeting opened at 6:32 pm. Present: Doug MacLeay, Thom Griffin, Lori Shearer, Rachel Glick, Lynn DiTullio. Town Coordinator Kevin Fox.

Assessors: Nick Anzuoni and Alice Wozniak

Fire Department: Nick Anzuoni

School Committee: Kate Barrows and Nina Anzuoni

Assessors:

Alice Wozniak and Assessors Chair Nick Anzuoni presented a draft budget.

Projected operating expenses are flat except for the Consulting Fees/Reval line item, which is proposed to quadruple to to needed consulting assistance with utilities and new construction assessments as well as reval consulting.

The main change is a request for a three year contract for Alice and a raise due to additional work being done and alignment with assessors of similar experience in other towns. There were some errors and missing info so Alice will resubmit the Budget worksheet.

Fire Department:

The Fire Department budget has a projected increase of about $900; basically flat. The line items have been bundled up into fewer than in the past (due to new accounting practices). Whether there’s a way to track expenses more individually while retaining spending flexibility is something to consider going forward.

Nick noted a ~$47k capital request for a pickup truck as their current truck, obtained as surplus, is on its last legs. This truck is used to pull the rescue trailer and for training. They expect to get 8-10 years of life out of a new truck.

Mohawk Regional School District:

Kate Barrows and Nina Anzuoni presented the School budget, noting that while the overall budget is looking at a 2.5% increase, the Colrain assessment has gone down slightly. While our transportation costs have increased, the Town’s “minimum contribution” from the state has gone down and the end result is a 3.63% decrease to $1,918,979 in operating assessment and a 1.93% decrease to $58,946 in capital assessment.

However, there are more students attending Franklin Tech so that assessment is increasing.

It was noted that the Transportation budget increased significantly when the new 5 year contract was let in FY19; it was noted that there was only one bidder.

Kate and Nina also shared news regarding progress the Rural Schools Coalition is making at the state level and a state planning grant received by the District to study ways to innovate the student experience. Also discussed was Colrain Central’s new “Service Learning” initiative on community-based project learning and the Service Learning Coordinator hired to support this work at the school this year.

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Minutes of January 22 and February 5th’s meetings will need to be approved at the next meeting, **Monday March 11th at 6:30 pm.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

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Minutes of this meeting, February 19th, approved \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 (date)

Doug Macleay: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Rachel Glick: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Lori Shearer: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Thom Griffin: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Lynn DiTullio \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_