Colrain Finance Committee Meeting Minutes, June 2, 2020

Present: Rachel Glick, Doug MacLay, Lynn DiTullio

Kevin Fox, Town Coordinator

Kate Barrows, School committee

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:36pm.
2. Minutes approved:
   * November 4, 2019, Approved unanimously
   * February 25, 2020: Approved unanimously
   * Minutes of April 28, 2020: Approved unanimously

3. The following articles were discussed and voted on as follows:

* + - * Articles discussed and recommended unanimously: 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, and 33
      * No action was taken on Articles 1, 2, 6, 32, 34, 35, 36 and 37

Discussion: Kevin shared that as of today, “we don’t know what state aid is going to be… 15+% cuts are the estimates of the most experienced but there is no certainty.” Kevin outlined a 15% lower budget that achieves savings by not replacing a retiring Hwy Dept. crew member. Also, there is some cushion in the heating/diesel fuel budget - latest bids came in quite low as the cost/gallon has come down.

Article 4, overall operating budget, is 2.5% up from last year per Kevin. the increase in solid waste fees is one of the reasons. Group insurance is down significantly due to changes in personnel.

Article 7’s requested figure is quite a bit larger than last year ($17k) as this is not just borrowing for cash flow purposes. $42k is due in November for an interest payment on the ~$2M borrowing authorized for Broadband.

Article 10: Mohawk district school budget. The committee discussed the pro’s and con’s of recommending the original (pre-COVID) school budget. The school has also prepared a 1/12 budget approach but this has not been certified. Kate Barrows suggested that the school is thinking there might be more flexibility with the 1/12th approach. Also, DESE was unsure that towns would be having TMs by June 30th so the 1/12th budget is a way to handle that.

Article 21: New budget for Broadband: all expenses, no income yet. After advisement from our auditor and DOR, Kevin and Paula et al prepared this budget that includes some projected income. The time delay between expenses and income as well as take rate are uncertain.

Article 24: New truck: this is one year ahead of what the capital plan called for; the timing was advanced as the existing truck has optimum resale value at this point.

4. A motion was made and approved to accept the above as documentation of minutes of this meeting.

5. The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 pm.