

Sandisfield Finance Committee

Time: June 23, 2022, 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Meeting Place: Zoom only.

Topic: Sandisfield Finance Committee Meeting

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Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89561363740?pwd=aDJuZVdaNUpaM3FQRkk5Q3hkeXpsdz09>

Meeting commenced 7:25pm

Attendees: Calvin Rodman, Larry Dwyer. Roger Brown attended as a guest speaker.

- 1) Reviewed and approved June 9, 2022 Meeting minutes.
- 2) Reviewed and approved Year-end transfers
 - a. \$1,485.78 Town Acct Expenses to Oper Maint Repair. Two yes for approval.
 - b. \$ 849.38 Employee Incentive to Oper Maint Repair. Two yes for approval.
 - c. \$3,143.49 Employee Incentive to Legal Services. Two yes for approval.
 - d. \$ 481.36 Employee Incentive to Street Lighting. Two yes for approval.
 - e. \$1,150.00 Financial Committee Salary to Mowing. Two yes for approval
- 3) Discussed filling vacant Finance Committee positions. Larry Reached out to George Riley and Kathy Jacobs and both turned down joining the committee. Skip Newsome had shown interest in joining the committee.
- 4) Roger Brown reviewed the Annual Town Meeting (ATM) presentation by Jonathan Sylbert. The FY2023 operating budget on the warrant was one article and approved as a single appropriation. Operating expenses should be separated form one-time expenses such as road paving, equipment and engineering expenses. On previous budgets, operating expenses was mixed with one-time expenses. Operating expenses should be funded from taxes and one-time expenses should be funded from borrowing, free-cash or grants. The comparison between FY2022 and FY2023 was like comparing apples and oranges. As an example, in FY2022 the PSO salary was split between free-cash and taxes. Operating expense is what drives the tax rate. The presentation by Johnathan Sylbert was the only presentation at the ATM. The critical point is the comparison to the FY2022 and FY2023 budget which were compiled the same way, because the FY2022 budget contained one-time items that should have been paid with free cash or borrowing.
- 5) Three main points were made:
 - a. FY2022 operating expenses were paid with funds that were other than taxes.
 - b. Special Town Meeting (STM) expenses were paid with transfers.
 - c. FY2022 Operating expenses were underfunded.

Instead of FY2023 being lower by \$9,046.29 it was actually higher by \$213,646.17. When the FY2023 budget was compiled, run rates were not looked at and for the most part expenses for FY2022 were just carried over to FY2023. Salaries were increased for FY2023 and were increased by approximately \$200,000. The biggest adjustment to the FY2022 budget should have been the \$200,000 returned to the town from the school budget at the STM. This was not calculated in the budget comparison between FY2022 and FY2023.

6) Meeting adjourned 7:55