

Town of Sandisfield
Finance Committee Working Session
Date: February 16, 2019
Location: Town Hall Annex, 66 Sandisfield Road

Members Present: Alex Bowman, Roger Brown, Joe Gelinas, Kathy Jacobs, Bogart Muller, Fred Ventresco (ex-Officio Committee Member).

Members Absent: None

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:02 AM.
2. Joe moved and Bogart seconded to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2019 working session. Approved 5-0.
3. The committee reviewed and discussed the FY20 Farmington River Regional School District (FRRSD) budget proposal, including information that was gathered by Alex Bowman and Fred Ventresco at the FRRSD's joint budget hearing on February 13, 2019. The committee desires additional information and agreed to request a meeting with Sandisfield's Board of Selectmen and Sandisfield's members of the School Committee.
4. The committee reviewed and discussed answers to its questions on the FY20 operational budget request in the General Government Administrative category.
 - a. The committee unanimously recommends increasing the Moderator Expense from \$0 to \$100.
 - b. The committee unanimously does not recommend the Town Clerk Salary request.

NOTE: If limited to a 2% increase (\$13.79/hour vs. the \$15.00/hour requested) the Assistant Town Clerk salary would be \$10,756 (vs. \$11,700 requested) and the total personnel budget for Town Clerk would be \$26,149 (vs. \$27,093 requested).

- c. The committee unanimously abstains from recommending the Town Clerk Expense request.

Joe moved and Bogart seconded that the FINCOM will recommend the budget requests as presented by the Board of Selectmen as amended in (a), (b) and (c) above. Approved 5-0.

5. The committee discussed the FY20 operational budget requests in the General Government Finance Category.
 - a. The committee unanimously recommends increasing the Finance Committee salary to \$2,400.

Joe moved and Bogart seconded that the FINCOM will recommend the budget requests as presented by the Board of Selectmen as amended in (a) above. Approved 5-0.

6. The committee reviewed and discussed answers to its questions on the FY20 operational budget request in the Highway category. Joe moved and Alex seconded that the FINCOM will recommend the budget requests as presented by the Board of Selectmen. Approved 5-0.

NOTE: The committee would have liked to obtain the DPW purpose statement and plans for next year and verification that the new DPW Superintendent was satisfied with the requested budget. However, given that the management transition is still taking place, the committee has voted to recommend the budget with the understanding that changes may be made before a final warrant is prepared.

7. The committee reviewed and discussed answers to its questions on the FY20 operational budget request in the Public Safety Category.
 - a. The committee unanimously recommends increasing the ALSS Intercept Service budget to \$15,000, with \$7,050 to be raised from taxation and the balance of \$7,950 be transferred from free cash.
 - b. The committee unanimously recommends that as soon as possible, but no later than the FY21 budget cycle, accounts for supplies/materials, technology/software, mowing and gas/heating oil should be reallocated to the appropriate town-wide budget line items. The accounts involved include Emergency management, Fire & Ambulance Equipment, and Fire & Ambulance Maintenance.
 - c. The committee unanimously recommends that the request for street lighting be eliminated except for any lights necessary for public safety.

Joe moved and Bogart seconded that the FINCOM will recommend the budget requests as presented by the Board of Selectmen as amended in (a), (b) and (c) above. Approved 5-0.

NOTE: The committee understands that a request for a Public Safety Officer may, if approved, require revisions to the public safety budgets.

8. The committee discussed the FY20 operational budget requests in the Community Benefits Category.
 - a. The committee unanimously recommends reducing the FY20 Veteran's Benefits request by subtracting the amount of FY18 revenue received for Veteran's Benefits and appropriating that amount from free cash instead.

Joe moved and Kathy seconded that the FINCOM will recommend the budget requests as presented by the Board of Selectmen as amended in (a) above. Approved 5-0.

9. The committee discussed the FY20 operational budget requests in the Health and Sanitation Category. Joe moved and Alex seconded that the FINCOM will recommend the budget requests as presented by the Board of Selectmen. Approved 5-0.

NOTE: The FINCOM understands that a pending new solid waste contract may require revisions to the Solid Waste budget

10. The committee discussed the FY20 operational budget requests in the Education Category. Joe moved and Bogart seconded that the FINCOM will recommend the budget requests as presented by the Board of Selectmen pending a meeting with the Board of Selectmen and Sandisfield's members of the School Committee. Approved 5-0.
11. The committee discussed the FY20 operational budget requests in the Boards and Committees Category.
 - a. The committee unanimously abstains from recommending the Recreation Committee request pending receipt of the Committee's meeting minutes for FY19.
 - b. The committee unanimously recommends eliminating the operating request for the Cemetery Committee and appropriating that amount from the Cemetery Stabilization Fund instead.

Joe moved and Kathy seconded that the FINCOM will recommend the budget requests as presented by the Board of Selectmen as amended in (a) and (b) above. Approved 5-0.

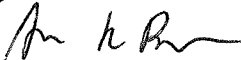
12. The committee discussed the FY20 operational budget requests in the General Government, Buildings, Operations and Maintenance Category. Joe moved and Bogart seconded that the FINCOM will recommend the budget requests as presented by the Board of Selectmen. Approved 5-0.
13. The committee discussed the FY20 operational budget requests in the Stabilization Funds Category. Joe moved and Bogart seconded that the FINCOM will recommend the budget requests as presented by the Board of Selectmen. Approved 5-0.
14. The meeting was adjourned at 12:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Joe Gelinas, Finance Committee Chair



Alex Bowman, Finance Committee Member



Roger Brown, Finance Committee Member

Kathy Jacobs, Finance Committee Member



Bogart Muller, Finance Committee Member