

Town of Sandisfield
Finance Committee Meeting

Date: February 10, 2018

Location: Town Hall Annex, 66 Sandisfield Road

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM

Members Present: Roger Brown, Joe Gelinias, Kathy Jacobs, Bogart Muller, David Hubbard, Fred Ventresco (ex-Officio Committee Member)

Members Absent: NONE

Guests: John Skrip, Chair of Select Board.

1. Approved minutes for meeting held on January 20, 2018.
2. Discussed proposed committee to review scope and purpose of DPW. Suggestions included looking at effect of logging trucks and obtaining Berkshire Regional Planning road studies. It was also suggested that an engineer be hired to evaluate the condition of all roads and to report with granular details the condition of all roads, paved and dirt, and the cost to repair.
3. Committee members voiced no objection to hiring Dawn Lemon as the new FINCOM secretary.
4. Committee added one more revision to the section of FISCAL Policy Manual: Reserve Fund. The "approval" by the Town Accountant was changed to "review and feedback." The revised policy was approved unanimously.
5. Committee discussed the Farmington River School budget and hearing. We noted that we will need to place a revised wording of the school's stabilization fund on the warrant at the annual town meeting. We will ask about the use of the \$80,000 request for the stabilization fund and about the transportation funds on the Cherry Sheet.
6. Committee members again expressed concern about the budgets not yet received.
7. Town Administrator provided update on levy limit calculation and implications for this budget cycle. We are very close to the limit, especially given that some budget requests are significant.
8. The committee reviewed and discussed FY19 budgets received to date. The following issues were noted:
 - a. Tax Collector needs to be more aggressive in collecting overdue taxes

- b. Highway & Bridges requested increases (increase part-time, hire third full-time, increased expenses) are a concern.
- c. Why do we budget for external consult for conservation? Can the Conservation Commission do any of this?
- d. Why are we buying software for new computers? Don't we have a network license for software?
- e. Should we have an "Emergency Services Committee" to review those departments?

9. Adjournment: 11:50 AM

Respectfully submitted:

Joe Gelinas, Finance Committee Chair



Roger Brown, Finance Committee Member

David Hubbard, Finance Committee Member

Kathy Jacobs, Finance Committee Member

Bogart Muller, Finance Committee Member

