

Town of Montville Finance Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes for

May 30, 2017

5:00 P.M.

Room 203

Councilor Longton called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. He also led the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Councilors Pollard and Tanner. Finance Director Hart was also present.

Councilor Tanner moved, second by Councilor Pollard, to approve the minutes of the 5/25/17 meeting. Motion passed.

Remarks from the Public: none

Discussion of the 2017-18 Budget:

Councilor Longton explained that he had met with the Superintendent twice to discuss the BOE budget. He stated that he told the Superintendent to expect an approximate cut of \$1 million in addition to the \$230,000 cut already made by the BOE. The Superintendent stated that he expected a large cut to his budget and was looking to see where he could make the reductions. The \$150,000 budgeted in the Capital Improvement Plan for the MHS Water Filtration System can be removed because that is being funded by surplus funds in the General Fund. He asked the committee if they felt that they wanted to have a meeting with the Superintendent and BOE. The committee felt this would not be productive.

The committee discussed funding the Library for the removal of an underground oil tank removal in the amount of \$25,000 through the Capital Improvement Plan. They decided to wait for the Library to get quotes and fund it as an additional appropriation at that point.

There was discussion regarding the request for two part-time people for Social Services. The committee felt that they did not want to add additional staff at this point. They also discussed funding for two new camp counselors for Park & Rec. The committee felt the revenue generated by the additional children enrolled in camp would offset the cost of hiring the two counselors.

The committee reviewed the Police budget. Councilor Longton expressed that he feels the Town could save a great deal of money if they hired a police chief and did away with the Resident State Trooper program. Councilor Tanner moved, second by Councilor Pollard, to recommend the Town Council form a search committee for a Police Chief to take over the functions of the Resident State Trooper. Motion passed.

The committee discussed the Capital Improvement Plan and lease purchasing some of the vehicles and equipment. Hart will find out about the 5% discount on the police vehicles so the committee can decide whether or not to recommend that the Town Council commit to buying them before July 1. The committee is recommending leaving the funding for Fitch Hill Road in the 2017-18 Capital Improvement Plan.

Councilor Tanner moved, second by Councilor Pollard to recommend the Town Council reduce the budget as follows: \$230,000 in the BOE budget (this cut was previously made by the BOE), an additional \$1,000,000 in the BOE budget and \$150,000 in the Capital Improvement Plan for the MHS Water Filtration System. This is a total of \$1,380,000. Motion passed.

Remarks from the Public: Wills Pike of Pheasant Run urged the committee not to set a precedent with the funding for an oil tank for the library. He wanted to make it clear that if the Town does do away with the Resident Trooper Program they will still need to budget for a Police Chief. There will still be savings to the Town. He feels the Town should to an RFQ for Dispatch and IT Services. He feels the Town should discuss the need for purchasing new Fire Trucks instead of basing it on the age of the current truck. He feels the BOE will manage with the reduction in their budget and that they have plenty of funds. He was concerned that the committee was not inviting the Superintendent in to discuss the reduction. He stated that he does not agree with a 0% increase and it is important to sustain the fund balance. He agreed with the additional two camp counselors. He feels this is a good budget.

Remarks from the Councilors: Tanner stated she agreed with Mr. Pike's comment and feels that the committee should invite the Superintendent to go over his budget with them. Councilor Tanner moved, second by Councilor Pollard, to contact the Superintendent and ask if he would like to schedule a meeting with the committee. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:16 pm.

Theresa Hart, Director of Finance