

Town of Lunenburg

Finance Committee:
Mark Erickson, Chairman
Terri Burchfield, Vice-Chairman
John Henshaw, Secretary
Karin Menard
Caroline Griffis
Jay Simeone



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Lunenburg Finance Committee Minutes: December 11, 2014

J.P. Burchfield
per 5-0 vote
1/9/15

Location: Town Hall
Present: Mark Erickson (left before end of meeting), Terri Burchfield, Karin Menard, Jay Simeone, John Henshaw
Also Present: Jamie Toale--BOS Liaison (Note: Kerry Speidel unable to attend.)
Absent: Caroline Griffis

1. Meeting called to order by Mark at 7:00 pm.
2. Communications:
 - A. Public: None.
 - B. Committee:
 - i. A joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee will hear the Town Manager's FY16 revenue and expenditure budget and projections through FY20.
 - ii. Mark circulated *The Beacon* to the committee.
3. Meet & Greet: Adam Birney, Land Use Manager, Jack Rodriquenz, DPW.
 - A. Adam gave an overview of the initial steps for an updated land use plan for the Town.
 - i. Establishing the direction residents of the Town want to pursue regarding land use.
 - ii. Updating the 2002 Master Plan and addressing some by-law issues (e.g. regarding parking, signage).
 - B. Adam said that there may be some opportunity for commercial development in selective areas along Route 2A.
 - C. Department of Public Works (DPW), Jack Rodriquenz
 - i. Update on YTD FY 2015 expenditures and challenges:
 - Although the cost of sand stayed the same, the cost of road salt increased by 20% to 30% over FY 2014 with the consequence that the \$260,000 in the budget to cover snow is down by his estimate to \$77,000.
 - Only area DPW has overspent resulted from the micro-burst at Lake Shirley.
 - ii. Capital requests highlight the need to replace a backhoe, 6-wheel dump truck and sander, and the street sweeper, all showing signs of wear, needing more maintenance, and each approaching the end of a productive life.
 - iii. Jack suggested two ways of augmenting tax dollars for financing the pavement management plan and the stormwater drainage system.
 - In densely settled neighborhoods with a well-organized, tightly knit population (e.g. Hickory Hills, Whalom) the Town could propose the neighborhood raise funds for pavement betterment for their local roads. Jack is talking with the town manager about the Town paying part of the costs.
 - To raise funds to pay for upgrading the Town's aging stormwater drainage system Jack is proposing a uniform fee that each homeowner in the Town would pay, irrespective of the value or size of house or land.
 - iv. Adam and Jack said that they would require 20 minutes and at least 45 minutes respectively to make their presentations.

4. Committee/Department Liaison Updates:

Committee/Department— Reported By:	Update:
Capital Planning--John H.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All departmental presentations have been made. • The initial rough priorities have been set as general guidelines.
Public Works--John H.	There is nothing to report.
Library—Caroline G.	No update.
PACC--John H.	The newly constituted PACC will meet in the near future.
Building Re-Use--Mark E.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Hall: Front should be re-painted. • Feasibility Study: Cost of renovating Town Hall as an office building; Regarding Ritter Building, Old Primary School, TC Passios, Brooks House: What is the best alternative for Town offices? Is new construction the most feasible alternative?
School Building--Mark E.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new school construction committee approved the guaranteed maximum price. • Construction is coming in at or slightly under budget to date. • Projected construction costs are \$58 to \$59 million.
Schools--Karin M.	The school committee has begun work on the FY2016 budget.
Monty Tech--Karin M.	Nothing to report.
Council on Aging, Caroline	No Update.
Public Safety--Terri B.	Nothing to report.
Sewer Commission—Jay S.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The commission approved an extension of Highland Street, adding three more houses. • The Pratt Street-Lakeview project in on budget. • Overall the FY 2015 Sewer expenditures and revenues are in good shape.
Green Community—Jay S.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Green Community is working with the Senior Center on installing LED lights.

5. Future Agenda Items Proposed:

- A. Review the effect of increased electricity costs on departmental budgets and overall budgets.
- B. Review YTD cost avoidance from the solar array.
- C. Review contract commitments (e.g., sick leave buy back) related to OPEB.

6. Meeting Adjournment: Karin moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jay and approved 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted by John Henshaw January 7, 2015

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JAN 12 2015

**LUNENBURG TOWN
CLERK OFFICE**