

Rye Budget committee meeting minutes

April 28, 2020

Attendees: Chair Jaci Grote, Phil Winslow, Randy Crapo, Shawn Crapo, Mae Bradshaw, Jeff Ross, Ralph Hickson, Scott Marion, Peggy Balboni, Kevin Brandon attended at 5:15 pm.

Chair Jaci Grote opens with pledge of allegiance.

Jaci Grote reads COVID 19 instructions for Zoom meeting. These are also posted on the website.

Phil Winslow gives an update of the Town budget and where we currently are. They did a financial stress test with two scenarios. First being a 10% reduction in town revenue. The second is a 15% reduction. Ideally, they would like to save 50% which would be \$671,891.

The following items are ways of reducing costs:

Compactor for the town \$50,000

Paving

Police Taser's

Ladder pumper truck payment delayed

Laid off 11 employees in the town

We are looking to the school to save \$200,000

Library staff positions (Do we need everyone)

2.5 million Tan applied for through TD bank to cover budget.

Warrant articles of \$900,000 possible delay – not passing.

Salt Shed \$350,000

Mae Bradshaw ask can the warrant articles be encumbered? No per Phil Winslow.

Shawn Crapo suggest that selectman make a request to the Governor to change that. Phil Winslow agrees this is a good idea.

Ralph Hickson asks what is the income from Car registrations? There is an increase. Question: Can car registrations be deferred?

Currently ahead on registrations:

Unsure on Bldg. Permits

We will have a better idea on property taxes in July?

Are we waiving penalties? On taxes? Or interest fees?

Everyone agreed to wait and take it on a case by case basis.

Mae asks if interest could be charged but no penalties. Scott Marion encourages not to make blanket statements. Take it on a case by case basis.

Jaci Grote asks if there are increased expenses due to COVID 19 for fire and Police? Can these be reimbursed from the state? Phil is checking into this but unsure of the timeframe.

Randy ask about the payments to Jenness Beach. Are they still coming? Phil assures them they will be paid. Ralph asks about he water payments. Same deal they will be paid as well.

Jaci Grote says we really don't know where we stand until July.

Phil Winslow says cash flow and budget should be more definite by the first week in July.

Shawn Crapo ask about tuitions? Are they up or down?

Jeff Ross says that next year is going to be a new normal.

Mae Bradshaw ask Phil if Rockingham County 2.5 million dollars could possibly be deferred?

1.6 million is for Schools in June.

Explains that he is looking into the trust funds as well and trying to defer payments from these funds.

Phil asked what the status of the sale of the Trolley Barn is.

It is currently going through the appraisal process then will go out to local realtors.

Question came up about gas tank coverage and the Van? What are our options? Shawn recommends adding to the Salt Shed. Phil will check it out.

Jaci ask about rec activities will they be curtailed through the summer? Phil replies that he thinks so for now.

Jaci Grote says that the Governor extended the stay at home through May 15th. They are looking into the restrictions of short-term rentals. Jaci recommends a meeting with Town after Scott's meeting.

Phil Winslow brings up the issue of water to the Wentworth Country Club that would cost us \$950,000. If the new bridge is a fixed bridge then a water main can be an option with much less cost. Jaci says that Kate Murray has been working on this and will continue to encourage her to do so. The Coast guard is also involved in this.

Shawn asks about the trails and mountain bikes. They are using them all the time. Jaci is working on signage and makes recommendations where there are less people and crowds.

Scott Marion moves to adjourn the meeting.

Shawn Crapo moves to second it.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:58 pm

Next meeting will be May 28th, 2020 @ 6 pm.