Finance Committee Meeting Minutes March 26, 2019

Present:  Doug MacLeay, Rachel Glick, Lori Shearer, Thom Griffin

Kevin Fox, Town Coordinator

Eileen Sauvageau, Select Board Member

Mark Thibodeau, Select Board Member

Nancy Turkle, Library Trustees

(Name?), Library Trustees

Ellen Weeks, Personnel Committee and Friends of the Colrain Library

Meeting called to order 6:36pm.

The committee heard comments from the Library Trustees and Friends of the Colrain Library regarding the requested salary increases for the Head Librarian.

Thom Griffin made a motion to leave the Library Trustees’ salary proposal as it is; Rachel Glick seconded. All were in favor.

In addition the committee discussed Alice Wozniak’s salary increase request.

Doug MacLeay made a motion to support Alice’s requested appropriation. (ATM makes final yes/no on all of these.) Thom Griffin seconded; all were in favor.

The committee discussed the issue of a pay increase for a highway department mechanic. The issue of comparable pay in non-town jobs was discussed.

Lori Shearer made a motion to keep it’s recommendation that said mechanic receive an increase to $30/hour rate (no COLA in addition to this). Doug MacLeay seconded and and all were in favor.

The committee discussed the issue of the COLA increase. Doug MacLeay made a motion that the COLA be set at 2.5% for hourly employees (stipended employees not included). Lori Shearer seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Kevin Fox presented a list of town assessments in order to show the change from from FY 2019 to FY 2020. The only major changes are in the town’s joining of the FRCOG Cooperative Public Health, with an assessment of $11,000, and its joining a Regional ACO (animal control) which is assessed at $5,414. (The actual change will be about $2,000 less as this was approximately the amount paid to the current Animal Control Officer.)

Kevin Fox presented the proposed capital requests for FY 2020, with an update of $8,000 for fire department repair issues.

The committee and the select board members discussed whether or not the town should pursue the option to tax local Bed&Breakfasts and AirB&Bs. It was agreed that the select board should consider adding an item to the ATM warrant.

Kevin will construct a budget taking into account the above recommendations by the select board and finance committee; this budget, which includes a 2.5% COLA increase for non-stipended town employees and the resulting tax rate will be discussed at the next meeting, Tuesday, April 9th.

Doug MacLeay made a motion to adjourn; Thom Griffin seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:29.

Next meeting Tuesday, April 9th, and 6:30.