

Boylston Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes for March 11th, 2024
Budget Hearings

Present: Greg Cusimano, Karen McGahie, Howard Drobner, Stephanie Miczek

Remote: Dave Butler

Absent: Eric Brose

Howard called meeting to order at 6:37PM

- Motion to approve minutes from 3/4/24 meeting by Greg, 2nd Dave. Roll call vote: Yeses: Howard, Dave,, Greg, Karen, Steph. No's None.
- Inspectional Services - Paul
 - Increase in dues & memberships in building inspector services.
 - \$75k building inspector salary is proposed by building inspector, not approved by anyone that we know of.
 - What is difference between Assistant and Alternate inspector? Alternate is believed to be a back up to Assistant. Unsure if they were in approved 2024 budget.
 - Ipad/ & Cell \$650 needed for service for ipad used in the field.
 - Request from FinCom to Paul to apply for Federal Grants before State level grants as that is what State is pushing for. Reference CMRPC.
- Facilities did not show.
- Fire – Joe
 - Truck is complete, just needs to get built out. Probably 1.5 months away.
 - Old truck (1996 vintage) will be sold on used market.
 - Joe will get numbers to finance truck on lease purchase. Use \$385k for down payment plus funding for equipment (approx. \$335 for down payment, \$50k equipment). 5 year finance. We have \$85 in budget to cover expense going forward.
 - Joe requesting 24/7 coverage which requires 2 more full time. Currently Joe can't staff overnight shifts resulting in 18 min response time vs. 5 min when station is not staffed which violates response time requirement. Select Board has approved concept. Should be able to pull \$85k from ambulance receipts reserve fund and with 24 hour coverage EMT line can be eventually eliminated, reduce to \$5k for this year.
 - Chief and Union contracts have not been negotiated yet. For this budget add COLA and we will have to figure it out next year when contract is finalized.

- New ambulance may come in next fiscal year.
- Fire escape is in progress.
- Ambulance collection rate is 35%. Medicare/Medicaid pay promptly but they only pay a fraction of what is billed. 80% of the calls fall into this category.
- Joe is going to propose an increase in rates to Select Board. Auto insurance is about the only time he collect 100% of bill.
- Joe is in favor of regional dispatch. He feels the service will be better than our local one and the savings speak for themselves.
- Action items
 - Review if Alternate Inspectors were in 2024 approved budget as shown on worksheets.
 - Inform School that they need to submit 2 budgets (assuming they need 2-1/2 override). One that falls within the current levy limit and a second for their desired budget.
 - Reduce fire EMT to \$5k.
 - Send BOS snapshot of “as requested” pre-cut budget.
 - Karen to send Dave updated sheet for quick review.
 - Howard to send BOS snapshot of “as requested” pre-cut budget.
- Next meeting scheduled for March 20th, 6:00PM.
- Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:56PM made by Dave, 2nd Karen Roll call vote. Yeses: Howard, Dave, Greg, Karen, Steph. No’s None.