

Boylston Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes for March 4th, 2024
Budget Hearings

Present: Eric Brose, Greg Cusimano

Remote: Howard Drobner, Dave Butler

Absent: Karen McGahie , Stephanie Miczek

Howard called meeting to order at 6:40PM

- Motion to approve minutes from 2/26/24 meeting by Greg, 2nd Dave. Roll call vote: Yeses: Howard, Dave, Eric, Greg. No's None.
- Town Treasurer/Tax Collector Cheri Cox
 - Cheri currently by herself. Assistant has retired (last week) as expected. Offer has been made to candidate who should start in 2-3 weeks. New position will split time with departments (Town accountant). Cheri looking for increase from 32 to 35 hours for herself to cover increase in town size and her role responsibilities.
 - Postage meter had to be swapped out which explains increase in postage budget.
 - The committee decided to include \$100,000 in the budget for a principal payment towards the \$1,050,000 BAN issued for the Sewall/School corner land purchase. Cheri also said she would apply the unspent funds (approx \$45,000) towards principal. The town should also receive the \$500,000 state grant next year.
- Historical Commission Bruce
 - Current budget shows no increase from last year. All is good.
- Conservation Commission
 - No show
- Highway Department Steve
 - Tree Warden. Want to increase again (25% increase proposed). Most of the work is crane work which keeps getting more expensive. \$7k per day for crane work. If we need to adjust down we can.
 - Looking for more road money. Edgewood Dr plus last mile of Central St. Total need is about \$500-600k. Have about \$203k in Chapter 90 funding.
 - Suggested we have Highway take on project at BES which would save money instead of having Schools do it on their own.
 - Sidewalks in need of repair. Edgebrook in particular has received a lot of complaints. Suggestion made to do a free cash article to cover expense.

- Free cash looking to replace guardrail on Central St. \$50k
- Catch basin material needs to be disposed of now. Cost unknown and will need to go into budget. Possibly +/- \$10k.
- Need to increase highway overtime to cover Steve's new contract.
- Wants to know if he is selling old truck or if fire is taking it.
- Town Accountant Ninotchika Rogers
 - Clerical support is coming out of her line item so no need to make change to budget.
 - Ninotchika advises we will need a full time town accountant in the near future. She is seeing similar time constraints as Cheri with town growth.
- Action items
 - Add \$10k to Highway budget for catch basin material disposal.
 - Plan on free cash article to cover sidewalk \$10k.
 - Increase Highway overtime \$17.5k.
 - Dave to look at Ambulance recipients account to discuss next week.
- Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:56PM made by Eric, 2nd Dave Roll call vote. Yeses: Howard, Dave, Eric, Greg. No's None.