

Budget Committee Minutes

5:00pm Wednesday, March 7th, 2018, Vinalhaven Town Office

Present- Andy Dorr, Jocelyn McLean, Holly Sault, Bill Alcorn, Del Webster, Janann Sherman, Eric Davis, Gabe McPhail. Lucy McCarthy via teleconference. Margaret Qualey was absent.

Minutes – Motion by Janann to approve the minutes from the February 28th meeting.

Second by Gabe. **Vote:** All in favor; **Motion carried.**

Section Review & Discussion

Harbor Master- Bill opened with notes from the current Stonington harbor master. Their current system started in the early 1970s. Mooring prices were discussed. The town of Stonington doesn't have any moorings for rent, so costs are all for permanent moorings. \$100 for commercial moorings, plus \$10 per vessel foot. There are other fees for parking & skiffs and use of the pier. \$200 for private moorings plus footage. It was noted that they charge for all moorings around the island, though most fishermen use the main harbor. No difference in price between residents and non-residents. Bill also spoke with Rockport harbormaster Abby Leonard. Rockport has 15 commercial fishermen. Charges are \$100 plus \$2/foot for resident private; \$125 plus footage for nonresident private. Commercial is \$170 plus the \$2/foot. They also require annual mooring inspections and use mooring.com which gives locations and the layout of the harbor; they can pay online this way. They have a full time deputy that works fewer hours in winter. It was noted that there is a lot of revenue opportunity in Vinalhaven not being taking advantage of.

Andy noted parts of the current harbor ordinance haven't been enforced; and there are fees to be collected. Mostly parking; no fee for permanent moorings, but used to be a fee for rental moorings. The harbor ordinance is currently being reviewed. Part of solving this is having a position in place to collect these fees.

It was agreed to take any recommendations to the harbor committee, and that if the town can get the constable position in place and have what is already in the ordinance collected- then it will be possible to move forward and generate more revenue.

Andy proposed that the boat & R/V excise taxes continue to fund the harbor master position (was 18,000 last year), and that any other funds collected fund the harbor reserve.

There was discussion about whether people that don't use the town wharf should be charged for moorings away from the harbor, the budget justification, repairs that need to be done, and funding options for the reserve to pay for these repairs.

There was a suggestion to require paying the fee for skiffs when people pay for their boat registrations, and subsequent discussion about whether this could be enforced. There was also a proposal to recommend to the selectmen to expand the ordinance to include the whole island.

Del noted that before any recommendations are made, the committee should be collaborating with the current harbor committee.

By approving this department budget, the committee would be agreeing about the creation of the new constable position. This position would be giving someone the authority to enforce all the ordinances of the town, and combine the three smaller positions make it a more attractive full-time position (higher pay and benefits).

Motion by Lucy to recommend the proposed amount of \$28,335. **Second** by Gabe. **Vote:** All in favor; **Motion carried.**

Janann mentioned that the data provided should be shared with the harbor committee.

CEO/LPI- Faye Grant currently has this position; has been proactive. It was agreed that it is good that planning board meetings are included in the hours. Wages are increased due to more hours; lodging/meals has decreased, now that CEO/LPI is not having to commute here. There was a question about whether the training involved for this job was included in this budget. Andy explained that it is included. **Motion** by Gabe to recommend the proposed amount of \$24,390. **Second** by Janann. **Vote:** all in favor; **Motion carried.**

Insurance- This is based on calendar year, not fiscal year. Lucy had a question about whether the town could be liable for someone being hurt on the town float. Andy explained in what circumstances the town could be held liable. The town has the responsibility to make repairs on infrastructure in a timely manner. There was a question about what the road treatment line was. It was explained that the insurance would cover well contamination from treating the roads during the winter (salt). There was also discussion about the airport coverage. **Motion** by Janann to recommend the proposed amount of \$68,285. **Second** by Gabe. **Vote:** all in favor; **Motion carried.**

Donations- This section was briefly discussed as materials were yet to be provided. It will be revisited next week. Lucy asked if any of the groups that weren't funded last year (that had been funded in the past) questioned as to why. Andy explained that none had. Generally in the donation request they will give justification/explanation of services they have previously provided to the town. It was also asked if the selectmen had considered a donation policy. This has not yet been discussed by the board.

Debt Service- This has decreased about \$90,000; **Motion** by Janann to recommend the proposed amount of \$153,000. **Second** by Gabe. **Vote:** all in favor; **Motion carried.**

Agenda for next meeting

Next meeting will be held Wednesday, March 14th at 4:30pm. Topics to be discussed will include Donations, Public Safety Building, Ambulance, and Fire Department.

Adjourn

Motion by Janann to adjourn the meeting at 6pm. **Second** by Eric. **Vote:** All in favor; **Motion carried.**