

Town of Blandford

Finance Committee

Meeting Minutes – January 7, 2019 at 6pm

Present at the meeting:

Janet Lombardo
Julie Bull
Joshua Garcia
Andrew Quinn (arrived at 7pm)

Department Head Meetings -

1. Hilltown Ambulance – Thomas Ackley (Blandford Representative) Angela Mulkerin and Loretta Stober

HA provided handouts of income and expense charts as they relate to operating Hilltown Ambulance. Discussed Hilltown ambulance's five year plan to purchase a new ambulance and the budget request for all the Blandford's portion of that increase.

No other departments were in attendance to discuss their 2020 budget requests.

2. General Discussion - 2020 budget spreadsheet and the impact of the following:

- **Fire Chief Salary** and need for full time chief
- **Revolving Funds** of different departments – fire, historical commission, library, etc. Janet L. stated these are an integral part of the budget process for they can be used in some instances for expenses related to projects and expenses outside of daily operational expenses.
- **Highway department** – in transition with hiring new Highway Superintendent. Who is completing budget request? Future of Highway and Water Secretary
- **Water Department** – current state of personnel and future budget with focus on Town bills vs. Water overhead. Josh suggests combining water bills for every department into one account, like fuel and phone charges.
- **Town Clerk**, Mary Kronholm, spoke about the position of Town Clerk being elected versus appointed and its effect on future budgets for that department.
- **Joshua Garcia, Town administrator**, will be setting department head meetings with the Finance Committee as he receives their budget submissions. Handed budget submissions received so far to the Finance Committee chair, Janet Lombardo.
- **Budgetary Cut in IT expenses in FY19 is creating an ongoing deficit in the IT account** and what will be done moving forward to handle future IT expenses not budgeted for in fiscal 2019.

3. MOTION: To Transfer \$ 2,955.00 from the Reserve Account (015122.000) to cover the IT Expense line (015192.004) to pay IT bills not budgeted for. Voted in favor.