

Town of Blandford Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2019

Open Session: 7:00pm

Present: **JLombardo**, chair, **JGarcia**, Town Administrator, **E Harvey**, Fire Chief, **TJ Cousineau**, Cemetery Commissioner

Given there was no quorum there were no votes taken, but the Chair of the Finance Committee and TA still met with department heads to discuss their 2020 budget requests

1. Department Head Meetings – the following were scheduled to meet:

- **Fire Department Budget** – Ed Harvey discussed the possibility of an increase in the Salary for the Blandford Fire Department Fire Chief, based on increased hours. The dept.'s increased number of medical calls was mentioned by the Finance Chair in response to the TA's statement citing very few fire calls. The large percentage of aging seniors in Blandford's population as well as numerous medical calls from substance abuse has exponentially increased the Fire Department's responsibility to Town Residents. Ed Harvey will resubmit the department's budget request to show details of what priorities, tasks and responsibilities will specifically be met with the increased Fire Chief hours. Finally, the fact that the department is all volunteer with many from Westfield State University students taking Fire and EMS courses, leadership is the key to the department's success through teamwork at various calls.
- **Cemetery Commission Budget** – the Cemetery Commission stated that he did not have his budget paperwork, but that the line items for the Cemetery Commission would be level funded. The Commissioner spoke about the project that is underway building storage for the Cemetery equipment. The site has been cleared and foundation laid and the Commissioner said the project needs electricity at the building and is counting on revenue from plot sales that should be in the Cemetery revolving funds.

General Discussion – there was discussion about revolving funds which can provide a lot of flexibility with some categories of budget requests. This needs further discussion and background information about the different departments' revolving funds. The Finance Committee Chair said that a request to the Accountant's office about the revolving funds would be submitted to find the disposition of different departments' revenue streams that are outside the General Fund.

Meeting Adjourned