

# Town of Blandford Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

March 11th, 2019

Open Session: 7:00pm

Present: **JLombardo**, chair, **JBull** and **AQuinn**, members, **JGarcia**, Town Administrator, **JMasse & PLangmore**, Municipal Light Board, **SJemilo**, Board of Assessors, **RSenecal**, Highway Department

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

- **Municipal Light Board** – June & Pete requested to bring the Wired West stabilization account to 100K which will mean an additional 15K for 2020. Wired West is no longer connected with the broadband project. MLB expense account budgeted as \$16,000 for FY19 and they have not spent any of it YTD. This could be for the operational startup costs for the broadband that is expected to start up in FY20. They have requested to keep that account level funded but Peter Langmore said he would check with WG & E to see if that amount was correct for expected operational / administrative costs at startup which is anticipated for FY2020. For the broadband project there are \$1.04 million in state funds, however it is anticipated that the town will need to borrow \$1.76 million as the total estimated cost of the project was \$2.8 million. This cost could be higher as expenses have increased since the projected expense had been received.
- **Board of Assessors** – Steve Jemilo Requested salaries increase of \$1,104 for FY20 budget. Also requested the Assessor's expense line item be re-budgeted for \$3,500 which was eliminated in FY19. With the position being outsourced and additional work to be done in FY20 it is expected to have these expenses again in FY20. All other line items were requested to be level funded or decreased for FY20.

## 2. Other Business

- **Highway-** RSenecal the new Highway Superintendent discussed the need to assess all budget line items before he can give us specific requests for amounts needed for FY20. We did discuss the need for an increase of \$15K for repair of roads, as well as budgeted \$10-15K for a new vehicle to be leased. There are 3 highway vehicles being sold currently and the need to replace one as well as start a capital equipment replacement schedule so vehicles and equipment will not all have to be replaced at the same time is a significant need for the highway department.

**General Discussion** – Joshua Garcia discussed plans for additional meetings needed, expectations, and timeline for budget setting.

**Motion:** To approve FC meeting minutes for February 11th, & February 25th Meetings. Motion Passed.

### Tabled:

- Review and approval of minutes from February 4<sup>th</sup> and March 4th until next meeting on March 18th, 2019.
- Hearing to review budget with Water Department

**Meeting Adjourned**