

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Meeting

August 26, 2019

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Monday, August 26, 2019 at 7:00 p.m., Room #112, Town Hall, with the following members present: M. Trudell, J. Burke, S. Ahern, M. Ahigian, D. Crowley, J. Fisher, A. Flowers, K. Greulich, A. Hamilton, L. Romanowiz, D. Shea, M. Sullivan, L. Van Der Linden. Members absent were B. Bain, S. Lawson. Also in attendance were: Town Administrator J. Johnson, Assistant Town Administrator P. Shield, Finance Director M. Thompson, Town Accountant J. Cuneo, Fire Chief T. Bailey, D.P.W Director R. Mattson, Town Clerk L. Gaffey, Superintendent of Schools, B. Gough, Business Manager, M. Friscia, School Committee Members N. Gallivan and W. Buckley, and Health Director R. Chapell.

7:00 p.m. Quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by the Chairman M. Trudell

New Members

Committee extended a welcome to new members: S. Ahern, J. Fisher, and L. Romanowiz. FinCom Members and the department heads present introduced themselves and provided their background in Town government and the private sector.

7:05 p.m. – Committee Reorganization

Chairman

MOTION MADE by J. Burke, Seconded by A. Flowers to nominate M. Trudell as Chairman, Motion Passed (13-0-0) (13 voting) Unanimously

Vice-Chairman

MOTION MADE by M. Ahigian, Seconded by A. Hamilton to nominate A. Flowers as Vice-Chairman, Motion Passed (9-4-0) (13 voting)

MOTION MADE by J. Burke, Seconded by D. Shea to nominate D. Crowley a Vice Chairman (No vote taken)

Secretary

MOTION MADE by D. Crowley . Seconded by A. Hamilton to nominate J. Burke as Secretary, Motion Passed (12-0-1) (J. Burke abstained) (13 voting)

Capital Budget Appointment

MOTION MADE by A. Flowers, Seconded by A. Hamilton to nominate J. Burke as the Finance Committee Representative to Capital Budget for a three year term. Motion Passed, (12-0-1) (J. Burke abstained) (13 voting)

Town Administrator

Town Administrator J. Johnson provided an overview of the articles in the October 21, 2019 Fall Town Meeting Warrant.

Article 1 – Committee Reports

Article 2 – Budget Adjustments /\$196,560 being requested for the following Departments Town Clerk, Misc. Expenses-\$20,000 (\$10,000 for electronic voting, \$10,000 for legal fees for changing the General Code, Charter and By-laws): and \$6,560 for early voting; \$55,000 for Solid Waste Recycling required due to additional costs associated with the Town's trash and recycling vendor who will no longer be covering costs associated with recycling pick-up; \$12,000 for Board of Health Salaries due to the Director retiring at the end of Fiscal Year, and costs associated with office and field coverage and hiring/training a new director, \$14,000 Town Engineer Salaries, due to the retirement of the Town Engineer that created a shortfall in the salary line item and \$75,000 for Debt and Interest to be placed in the FY2020 Budget that can be set aside for projected school projects.

Article 3 – Rte.1A Playing Fields

Recommended funding from various funding sources to cover the scaled back field project. Updated project costs will be available prior to the Fall Town Meeting. Bids will be open on September 12 and Capital Budget will meet with Finance Committee on September 16, 2019.

Articles 4, 5, and 6 – Capital Budget Items addressing the Towns' infrastructure, equipment and paving non-borrowing needs. They have started meeting on the articles.

Articles 7 – Paving Improvements – These improvements will be addressed by borrowing.

Articles 8 – Stabilization, Balance of \$4,752,284 as of 6/30/19. Requesting \$100,000. Town has been putting money away each year. Requires 50% to appropriate the money and 75% to take the money out by Town Meeting.

Article 9 – OPEB - Current balance as of June 30, 2019 is \$3,776,442.

Article 10 – School Medicaid and Parking Fees-This is an annual transfer from the General Fund to reimburse the School Department for Medicaid Funds and student parking fees in the amount of \$592,871.

Article 11 – Board of Assessors – Money to be appropriated to assist the Board of Assess with the valuation of business personal property. This is done every three years and requires an individual with expertise.

Article 12 – Land Purchase/Requested by the Sewer and Water Commissions to purchase a 2.5 acre parcel located off of Darwin Lane. Parcel is within the 400 ft. radius of Washington Well 5 (Zone I) Appraisals are due on September 16, 2019.

Article 13 – MWRA Grant/Program sponsored by the MWRA for sewer improvements in Walpole. This article was approved by Town Meeting last year, but Bond Counsel had issues with the wording and there is need to revote it with appropriate wording.

Article 14 /15 Inclusionary Housing By-law & affordable Housing Trust-Articles have been brought forward by the Affordable Housing Committee to encourage inclusionary zoning and develop a housing trust. Meeting of the Affordable Housing Session will be held on Monday, September 9 at the Library.

Article 16 – Street Acceptance/Hancock Court

Article 17 – Veterans Exemption/Sponsored by the Board of Assessors. Article deals with change in residency requirements to at least one consecutive year before the tax year begins for veterans exemptions.

Article 18 – Private Petition of J. Moraski seeking to limit the Sewer and Water Commissioner's authority to grant water beyond town borders.

Article 19/20 – Private Petition of Sarah Khatib to provide a gender neutral phase for the Board of Selectmen and Chairman.

Free Cash – Certified at 5.6 Million.

Explanation of Warrant

Chairman provided a recap of how the Town Meeting is formed and the various steps required. Finance Committee Public Hearing is always held the Thursday prior to Town Meeting. Finance Committee has the Main Motion at Town Meeting. On the floor of Town Meeting, substitute motions are allowed. Changes can be made to an article once the warrant is mailed out.

Finance Committee Meeting Schedule

Town Administrator will provide a revised schedule to the Committee.

Minutes

MOTION MADE by M. Trudell ,Seconded by A. Flowers to approve the June 24, 2019 Meeting, Motion Passed (9-0-4) (S. Ahern, J. Fisher, L. Romanowiz and D. Crowley abstained) (13 voting)

Committee Actions/End of Year

Chairman Trudell reported that there were no requests at the end of year for Reserve Fund Transfer or Within - Budget Year End Transfers.

Adjourn:

MOTION MADE by D. Crowley, Seconded by K. Greulich to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m., Motion Passed, Unanimously (13-0-0) (13 voting) Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Clare P. Abril
Clerk