

FINANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

March 19, 2015

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Thursday, March 19, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. with the following members present: J. Burke, C. Lane, J. Denneen, M. Iwanowicz, J. McDermott, A. Ragosta, D. Bruce, A. Healy, T. Williams, A. Walsh, M. Trudell, S. Lawson, Members absent were: P. Hinton, J. Lowre, and D. Crowley. Also in attendance was Town Administrator J. Johnson, Fire Chief T. Bailey, Police Chief R. Stillman, DPW Director R. O'Brien, School Superintendent L. Lynch, School Business Manager M. Friscia, Town Engineer M. Walker, Capital Budget Members L. Gaffey, W. Abbott, J. Spillane, A. Todesco, J. Burke (Finance Committee Representative to Capital Budget) and Finance Director M. Thompson, and Town Accountant J. Cuneo.

7:00 p.m. – Quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by Chairman D. Bruce.

May 4, 2015 Spring Annual Town Meeting

Article 7- Water Department

Article was previously voted by Finance Committee, Capital Budget voted 5-0-1 to fund in the amount of \$310,000 from Water Retained Earnings the following: Distribution System Investigation (\$200,000), Pump Station Monitor & Control Upgrade (\$35,000), Security Fencing & Gate at Town wells (\$75,000). Projects will have to go out to bid. Committee had questions on funding, retained earnings vs borrowing. Sewer and Water Commissioners like to stay with using retained earnings. They feel it is better to fund smaller items through WRE than borrowing. Town Administrator feels there are a lot of projects anticipated with the five year plan and will need to borrow the funds.

Article 8 – Sewer Department

Article was previously voted by Finance Committee. Capital Budget voted the amount of \$447,000 in favor 5-0-1 from Sewer Retained Earnings the following: Septage Facility Improvements (\$180,000), This will bring facility in conformity with ZBA. Last year there were 1093 deliveries, of which 795 from out of town. Canton facility is now closed. Revenue goes into Sewer Retained Earnings. Sewer System Feasibility Review (\$225,000), study of sewers in areas with smaller lots in East and North Walpole and bring the Sewer Master Plan up to date and Vehicle replacement (\$42,000).

Article 13 –Capital Infrastructure Improvement

Capital Budget is recommending a total of \$235,360 from Free Cash for the following items: **Parks Department** -Turco Field Turf Replacement Account (\$50,000),Town

Forest – 100th Anniversary Preparation (\$8,000) **Building Maintenance** Blackburn Improvements –minor repairs to the brick & Fire Escape (\$24,360), WHS IT Room Replacement (\$30,000), Plimpton School Fire Alarm (\$35,000), Nitrogen Sprinkler System @TH (\$25,000) Floor Replacement Systemwide (\$20,000) Painting and Siding Systemwide (\$12,000) Center Fire Station Partial Roof Replacement (\$31,000),

Fin Com discussed looking at costs for repairs and maintenance to the Fire Station until there is an Override a new facility built. Town Administrator spoke to need to focus on the living space. Some FinCom members had concerns with the fire doors, leaks at the roofs, asbestos tiles in the living space (asbestos removal is very expensive). Need to look at costs to sustain building until there is a new building. Town is working with an architect to see the cost for a bay for a ladder truck.

Article 14 – Capital Equipment

Capital Budget is recommending a total of \$936,640 from Free Cash for the following items: **Finance** - MUNIS Chart of Accounts Redesign (\$30,000), **Fire Department** - Replace 2007 Fire Department Command vehicle (\$40,000), SCBA Bottles and Masks (\$12,740), **Police Department** Motorcycle Replacement (\$27,000) Lieutenant's vehicle replacement (\$32,000), Unmarked Police Car replacement (\$32,000), Finger Print Scanner (\$23,000), **Vehicle Maintenance** Replacement 2001-F350 Dump truck (\$60,000), Trackless Tractor (2) (\$300,000), Vehicle Utility 2002-F-250 (\$50,000), **Parks Department** Hazardous Tree Removal (\$25,000), \$8,000 replacement mower (\$8,000), playground Replacement parts – Town wide (\$7,500), **Cemetery Department** – Lawn Mower (\$5,000), Equipment Lift and Compressor (\$5,000), **Engineering** – Dam Inspections (\$30,000), Bridge Evaluation (\$10,000), **School Department** – Technology, Year 2 (\$150,000), District wide phones (\$61,900), Food Service Central Dishwasher replacement (\$27,500)

Ambulance Update – Town is awaiting delivery of last year's ambulance (April 1) Town purchases a new ambulance every three years

Article 15 – Streets & Sidewalk Improvements

Capital Budget is recommending \$1,796,887 from Chapter 90 Funds, Free Cash and various other funding sources for the following items: Catch Basin Repairs (\$20,000), Crack Seal (\$25,000), Paving (\$602,887), Downtown Traffic Signals and sidewalk & Road improvements (\$1,149,000).

Town Administrator spoke to attending MMA meeting and funding has been released for the winter recover that goes towards pot holes, catch basins. Town anticipates receiving \$772,000 for Chapter 90 funds and will to the Selectmen for director on this money. DPW Director is optimistic that we will receive they money. They will need to look at what streets are in the worst condition and rank them. Anticipate cost to do Hitching Post

is \$500,000 to remove the concrete, question is whether we want to spend the money for a small amount of residents. Representation was made to the residents that the Town would fix, possibly start with one section. Many streets in Town are in deplorable condition. Downtown project needs to be done in the amount of \$1,149,000. Governor's intent of the money is to use it town wide for repairs to the streets. He is recommending that the Committee vote Recommendation at Town Meeting at this time on Articles 13, 14, and 15 until the Town has firmer numbers.

Article 13 – Capital Infrastructure Improvements

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for Recommendation at Town Meeting on Article 13, Motion Passed (12-0-0) (12 voting) Unanimous

Article 14 – Capital Equipment

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for Recommendation at Town Meeting on Article 14, Motion Passed (12-0-0) (12 voting) Unanimous

Article 15 – Street & Sidewalk Improvements

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for Recommendation at Town Meeting on Article 15, Motion Passed (12-0-0) (12 voting) Unanimous

Article 16 – Street & Sidewalk Improvements (Borrowing)

Capital Budget is requesting \$200,000 from Borrowing for street & sidewalk improvements (High Plain and Pleasant Streets).

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action on Article 16 in the amount of \$200,000 from Borrowing, Motion Passed (12-0-0) (12 voting) Unanimous

Schools

Superintendent Lynch spoke to including the technology plan into the regular School Budget and whether there is a sentiment to support this. School Department is looking at revolutionary ways to provide services but the need to meet all contract obligations. At the meeting with the Finance Committee, they will go through the Special Ed Budget by line item. They need a Special Ed Director and need to focus on FY2016 Budget. They are looking a reduction in students and reduction in Special Ed staff. All towns are struggling with Special Ed. Governor needs to do something. We need to know how much each community pays.

S. Lawson spoke to speaking with the Superintendent regarding the points raised at the committee's meetings, insurance, busing homeless children, etc. She will draft a letter

from the Schools Selectmen and Finance Committee to send to the Legislatures. She feels that these are two quick fixes.

Minutes

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by J. Burke for Favorable Action on the March 2, 2015 Minutes, Motion Passed (12-0-0) (12 voting) Unanimous

Discussion Issues

Committee members should be aware of discussion on e-mail, can cause Open Meeting issues. All discussions should be held in a posted meeting.

April 10 – deadline for the Secretary of State’s Ethics Certification.

Adjourn:

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Motion Passed (12-0-0) (12 voting) Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Clare P. Abril
Clerk