

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes

April 13, 2015

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Monday, April 13, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Finance Committee Room, #112, Town Hall with the following members present: D. Bruce, C. Lane, J. Burke, M. Iwanowicz, J. Denneen, M. Trudell, J. Lowre, J. McDermott, S. Lawson. A. Healy and A. Ragosta. 7:40 A. Walsh. Members absent were: D. Crowley, P. Hinton, and T. Williams. Also in attendance was Town Administrator J. Johnson, Finance Director M. Thompson, Town Accountant J. Cuneo, Fire Chief T. Bailey, Superintendent of Schools L. Lynch and Chairman of the School Committee P. Shields.

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

May 4, 2015 Spring Annual Town Meeting

April 10, 2015 memo to the Finance Committee from the Town Administrator regarding FY2015 Budget Updates on budget deficits. :

Reserve Fund – Current balance \$307,500, anticipates end of year requests in the amount of \$240,000 - \$130,000 School Department, \$10,000 Veterans (additional clients) and \$100,000 for Fire Salaries. He has met with the Fire Chief, DPW, and Town Accountant to come up with best estimates. He is concerned with the snow and ice number, and has an \$8,000 contingency. If this contingency is not used, closed out to Free Cash. These budgets are moving targets. This will allow \$67,500 in the Reserve Fund for anything that may come up before the end of the fiscal year.

Article 5 – FY Budget Adjustments. School Department's total deficit in the amount of \$288,000 and is recommending \$158,000 to be funded from the following: Free Cash - \$133,000, Dental Insurance \$20,000 and Property & Liability \$5,000. **Article 11** – Snow and Ice Deficit \$550,000 – to be funded from the following: Overlay - \$250,000, (This number to be confirmed with Assessors), Building Maintenance Expenses - \$40,000, Solid Waste - \$40,000, Unemployment - \$80,000, Health Insurance \$120,000, Property & Liability Insurance \$10,000 and Vehicle Maintenance Salaries -\$10,000.

Article 5 – FY15 Budget Adjustments

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by M. Trudell for Reconsideration of Article 5, Motion Passed, (11-0-0) (11 voting) Unanimous

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by M. Trudell for Favorable Action on Article 5 – Budget Adjustments in the amount of \$158,000 to be funded from the following accounts \$133,000 Free Cash, \$20,000 Dental Insurance, and \$5,000 Property & Liability), Motion Passed, (11-0-0) (11 voting) Unanimous

Article 11 – Snow and Ice Deficit - \$550,0000

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by M. Trudell for Reconsideration of Article 11, Motion Passed (11-0-0) (11 voting) Unanimous

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by M. Trudell for Favorable Action on Article 11, Snow and Ice Deficit in the amount of \$550,000 to be funded from the following accounts: Overlay - \$250,000, Building Maintenance Expenses - \$40,000, Solid Waste - \$40,000, Unemployment -\$80,000, Health Insurance -\$120,000, Property & Liability Insurance - \$10,000 and Vehicle Maintenances Salaries - \$10,000, Motion Passed (11-0-0) (11 voting)

Article 10 – Previous Year’s Bills

There are no known outstanding prior year’s bills. No Action requested.

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by M. Trudell for Reconsideration of Article 10, Motion Passed (11-0-0) (11 voting) (Unanimous)

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by M. Trudell for No Action on Article 10, Motion Passed (11-0-0) (11 voting) Unanimous

Article 6 – FY2016 Budgets

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by M. Trudell for Reconsideration of Article for funding purposes only, Motion Passed (11-0-0) (11 voting) Unanimous

MOTION MADE for Favorable Action on the funding for Article 6 from the following fund sources: Raise and Appropriate-\$78,211,367, Ambulance Fund-\$650,000, Overlay Surplus -\$50,000, Sale of Cemetery Lots -\$3,000, Health Insurance Trust Fund-\$14,000, Water Enterprise Fund -\$856,887, Sewer Enterprise Fund-\$370,834, Septic Loan Assistance Program \$1,762, Motion Passed (11-0-0) (11 voting) Unanimous

School Budget

Superintendent Lynch spoke to the School Budget, anticipated that there will be 13 ½ positions eliminated based on the reduced number on local aid and school choice. (12.6 of special ed and 1 regular classroom teacher). Since March, they have four major incidents impacting on the budget: Governor has cut the circuit breaker (\$225,000),

family moving into town affecting the Special Needs Budget for FY2016, student threaten the Schools, one special needs student requiring outside placement and School Department has not received the reimbursement from the McKinney-Vento Act, (\$60,000). They are working with collaboratives and there has been a reduction in kindergarten enrollments. School population is down 48 students next year. The elimination of 13.6 positions should help with health insurance. He anticipates that most of them won't need unemployment as they hope to obtain another position elsewhere. School Department has exhausted sustainability money. In addition they have reduced 5% in classroom supplies, math program reduced by \$50,000. If they receive State Aid or circuit breaker increases, the Superintendent's goal is to reinstate funds across the board. He is satisfied with special ed contract services. TEC is paying tuition, VICO is breaking even on a profit model. He will be announcing to staff, that programs that will be reduced and allowing opportunity to get out into the job market. They will be informing the special ed parents on Thursday and will work with them on the IEP. They have a partnership with Town of Norwood on the Phoenix/Bridge Program and will receive \$25,000 and will be put towards renovations at the Plimpton School. They will work with the number voted but feels the most painful is the \$200,000 reduction out of regular education and hopes that if revenues increase it can be adjusted. School Department might have to add an additional kindergarten teacher over the summer if the enrollment increases, but this will be paid out of fees.

School Department Meeting

School Department has requested a meeting with the Finance Committee on April 27, 2015, but it is questionable whether there would a quorum of Finance Committee Members. School Choice meeting of the School Department is scheduled for April 28, but they aren't counting on School Choice to balance the budget. Due to the update from Superintendent Lynch, there is no need for the April 27 meeting.

7:40 p.m. – Committee Member Ann Walsh

Minutes

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by M. Trudell for Favorable Action on the February 23, 2015 minutes, as amended, Motion passed(12-0-0) (12 voting) Unanimous

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by M. Trudell for Favorable Action on the March 5, 2015 minutes, as amended Motion Passed (11-0-1) (J. Lowre abstained) (12 voting)

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by J. Burke for Favorable Action on the March 9, 2015 minutes as amended (10-0-2) (A. Walsh, D. Bruce abstained) (12 voting)

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MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by M. Trudell for Favorable Action on the March 12, 2015 Minutes as amended, Motion Passed (8-3-1) (A. Walsh, A. Healy, D. Bruce opposed) (J. Lowre abstained) (12 voting)

Adjourn:

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by J. Lowre to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m., Motion Passed (12-0-0) (12-0-0) (Unanimous)

Respectfully submitted,

Clare P. Abril, Clerk