

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes

September 17, 2018

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Monday, September 17, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Finance Committee Room, #112, Town Hall with the following members present: M. Trudell, Burke, B. Bain, E. Barmakian, D. Crowley, A. Flowers, K. Greulich, A. Hamilton, S. Lawson, R. Nottebart, D. Shea, and L. Van der Linden at 7:40 p.m. Mark Sullivan. Members absent were R. Ardine, M. Ahigian. Also in attendance was Town Administrator J. Johnson, Assistant Town Administrator P. Shield, Finance Director M. Thompson and Town Accountant J. Cuneo.

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

October 15, 2018 Fall Annual Town Meeting

Article 4 – School Feasibility Study

Speaking to this article was Superintendent L. Lynch, Also in attendance was School Committee Chairman W. Buckley, School Committee Members. N. Gallivan. B. Muccini and Business Manager M. Frascia and Assistant Superintendent B. Gough.

Superintendent Lynch spoke to under this article they are trying to address the needs of the High School, and Bird and Johnson Middle Schools. These schools need major renovations to bring them into the 21st century. High School is crowded and the middle schools need updating after 60 years. Options are a new high school – move middle schools to existing high school or build one new middle school or two separate new middle schools or renovate the two middle schools.

Study will be contingent upon acceptance of the MSBA reimbursements. Feasibility study is reimbursed as you go. This study will require acceptance by Town Meeting and then the Citizens. The high cost of this study is due to the scope of the project. Town can reduce the amount of the study based on the different options. Schools feel that this is a good number. If the money is not used it will revert back to Free Cash. The MSBA will be visiting the Town on September 25.

It is a requirement that a School Building Committee be set up comprised of School Business Manager, Town Administrator, School Committee Member, Superintendent of Schools, Building Maintenance, School Principals, Representative on construction of school buildings, Finance Committee, educational personnel and members of the community with architecture, engineering and/or construction experience. This is to show that the Town and State are partners. Committee will be formed prior to the

selection of an architect. Architect will prepare different scenarios and there is a requirement to hold three or more public hearings. Additional hearings can be held if this is the wishes of the Community. MSBA wants all questions answered before the vote, they want any and all options looked into. Public hearings is when the parents can provide input.

Previously there were 80 applicants of which 40 where shortlisted this year. The amount of construction is based on the amount of monies being spent. It costs less to do an elementary school than a high school. .

MSBA is not intimidated by the complexity of this project. If the Town is accepted into the program, it will be a partnership between the Town and MSBA.

7:40 p.m. – Committee Member M. Sullivan

School Committee acknowledge the needs in all the schools. It is recommended that the Finance Committee tour the different schools and see how difficult it is to do renovations. It is up to the Town to do as many options that they want. Education and technology are always revolving and schools need to be updated. They will look other communities that have been successful in receiving the funding. There is no application fee and it has already been submitted, schools are being proactive.

MOTION MADE by A. Flowers, Seconded by D. Crowley for Favorable Action on Article 4, School Feasibility Study in the amount of \$1,500,000 from Free Cash, Motion Passed (13-0-0) (3 voting) Unanimous

Article 2 – FY2019 Budget Adjustments

Town Administrator is recommending, at this time, \$224,300 from Taxation for utilities adjustments for the following budgets: Building Maintenance, Police, Fire and Council on Aging. He is comfortable, at this time, with this number.

MOTION MADE by D. Crowley, Seconded by A. Flowers for Favorable Action on Article 2 in the amount of \$224,300 from Taxation, Motion Passed (13-0-0) (13 voting) Unanimous

Funding source of all the articles is as presented when voted: (Articles 2, 3, 4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,and 12)

Article 6 – OPEB

Committee had previously voted on September 13, 2008, the amount of \$216,002.08 for this article to be funded in the amount of \$200,000 from Free Cash and \$16,002.08 from an old Pension Trust Fund. This amount in the Pension Trust Fund has been revised to \$16,120.71.

MOTION MADE by A. Flowers, Seconded by D. Crowley for Reconsideration of Article 6, Motion Passed, (13-0-0) (13 voting) Unanimous

MOTION MADE by D. Crowley, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action on Article 6 in the amount of \$216,120.71 funded in the amount of \$200,000 from Free Cash and \$16,210.71 from Pension Trust Fund Account #8291-357000), Motion Passed (13-0-0) (13 voting) Unanimous

Meeting Schedule

September 20, 2018 meeting cancelled. Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 24, 2018, with a possibility of a meeting on Thursday, September 27, 2018. The purpose of the meeting on September 24, 2018 is further discussion on OPEB and budget planning and goal setting. Town Administrator will present a handout for the Committee and will be discussing this with the Finance Director and Town Accountant. This is a brainstorming session.

October 1, 2018 – Joint meeting with School Committee and Board of Selectmen to be held at the Police Station. Budget and financial management is going to be the discussion.

Adjourn:

MOTION MADE by A. Flowers, Seconded by D. Crowley to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m., Motion Passed (13-0-0) (13 voting) Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Clare P. Abril
Clerk