

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes

February 8, 2018

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Thursday, February 8, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in Room #112, Town Hall with the following members present: P. Stasiukevicius, J. Burke, J. Leith, M. Trudell, R. Nottebart, E. Barmakian, T. Bowen, A. Hamilton, A. Flowers, P. Hinton, M. Trudell and L. Huempfer. Members absent were R. Mariani, M. Clow and J. Vaillancourt. Also in attendance was Town Administrator J. Johnson, Finance Director M. Thompson, Town Accountant J. Cuneo, Fire Chief T. Bailey and Recreation Director P. Shields.

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

Chairman's Comments

None

Finance Committee -Vice Chairman Election

T. Bowen withdrew his name for the position of Vice-Chairman and nominations were opened.

MOTION MADE by T. Bowen, Seconded by R. Nottebart to nominate M. Trudell as Finance Committee Vice- Chairman, Motion Passed (12-0-0) (12 voting) (Unanimous)

Town Administrators Update

May 7, 2018 Spring Annual Town Meeting

Town Administrator J. Johnson provided a brief overview of the articles on the May 7, 2018 Spring Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Warrant now consists of 40 articles.

Planner Position – Mr. Johnson spoke to the new planner Timothy Higgins will be starting on Monday, February 12. Mr. Higgins' expertise is in zoning and interpretation of the Zoning By-laws. Committee entered into a discussion on what the concerns are with the residents of Walpole and what they want. Zoning hasn't been able to prevent growth in town. Committee members expressed concerns with not knowing what the

people of Walpole want for the town and expressed concerns with the number of housing units pending.

Staff – Town Administrator was asked to provide the committee with a list of the previous planners and department heads and the reasons that they left their position in Walpole.

FY2019 Budgets

Town Administrator gave an brief overview of the FY2019 Budgets. Major changes in the budgets are Veterans Services (combining position with Town of Medfield) Public Safety, (Town hired three dispatchers last town meeting and Town Administrator has just finished negotiations for them to be unionized) (10 employees), Fire Department will be hiring five or six firefighters in the next week, but firefighters will not graduate from the academy till November/December, (These position were approved last Fall Town Meeting) MIIA hasn't released the health insurance numbers. Capital Budget Committee is starting their meetings next Tuesday. He doesn't anticipate that Free Cash number will be as high as previous years. Prison Mitigation Funds haven't come in yet and there is no guarantee that Town will receive the monies next year. Revenues – Administration works with the financial team on a daily basis. Town is also working with ClearGov which will allow for more transparency throughout the budget process for the residents.

Debt & Interest Budget

There was a savings on interest costs on the Police and Fire and Council on Aging. Bids came in lower than anticipated on police and fire but Council on Aging came in higher. This is based on timing issues when projects are bid out.

Financial Advisors and Auditors - Town Administrator will schedule them for some time the end of March to come in and discuss OPEB and bond rating for the Town.

February 12, 2018 - Committee will discuss the General Fund and Health and Human Services Budgets with the exception of DPW Maintenance and DPW Highway and Parks which are scheduled for March 5, 2018 with the DPW Budgets.

Budget Procedures – Committee to go through budgets one at a time, and put a hold if they want to discuss further a particular budget or have any questions. Chairman requested that if any member has a question on a particular budget to e-mail the clerk with a cc to the chairman and this question will be forwarded to the department. This will allow for the department adequate time to provide for an answer when coming before the meeting. Clerk will provide to the members a list of questions that have been asked.

Council on Aging Budget – J. Burke spoke to checking with the Ethics Commission on her position as Vice-Chairman of the Council on Aging. She is allowed to sit in on a meeting and can take part on the discussion but will abstain from voting.

Adjourn:

MOTION MADE by M. Trudell, Seconded by P. Hinton to adjourn at 8:05 p.m.,
Motion Passed (12-0-0) (12 voting) Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Clare P. Abril
Clerk