

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes

March 12, 2018

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Monday, March 12, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: P. Stasiukevicius, J. Burke, M. Trudell, A. Hamilton, S. Lawson, R. Nottebart, J. Leith, T. Bowen, A. Flowers, R. Mariani and L. Huempfner. Members absent were: J. Vaillancourt, M. Clow, E. Barmakian and P. Hinton. Also in attendance was Town Administrator J. Johnson, Assistant Town Administrator P. Shield, Finance Director M. Thompson and Fire Chief T. Bailey.

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

Chairman's Comments

None

May 7, 2018 Spring Annual Town Meeting

Article 10 – Cast Iron Pipeline Replacements

This article was discussed on March 8, 2018, but action postponed due to not being listed on the posted agenda.

MOTION MADE by S. Lawson, Seconded by T. Bowen for Favorable Action on Article 10, Cast Iron Pipeline Replacement in the amount of \$\$1,825,000 by Borrowing, Motion Passed (9-0-2) (R. Mariani, A. Flowers abstained) (11 voting)

Articles 2, 3, and 4 – Personnel Board - Personnel Board Chairman A. DeNapoli Personnel Board

Article 2 – Small changes to the Sick Leave Bank, it is more of an administrative nature and the intent is to stagger the terms of the members.

MOTION MADE by T. Bowen, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action on Article 2, Motion Passed (11-0-0) (11 voting) Unanimous

Article 3 – Salary Schedule. 2% increase in the steps for Professional, Hourly and Administrative/Professionals. Title changes in the position of Appraiser to Director of Assessing (Grade P-5 and Community Development Director to Community Planning Director Grade P-5) and new position of Benefits Coordinator Grade P-10, and reclassification of Veterans' Agent from P-11 to P-9. The new position of Benefits

Coordinators will assist with coordination of benefits and deal with retirees. Administrator spoke to looking for someone to help with the transition when present individual retires. 2% increase will cost approximately \$83,000.

Mr. DeNapoli spoke to department doing a survey two years ago, and made adjustments based on this, they also looked at the cpi index, and historical adjustments to employee groups (unions). Some of the steps have been increased 2%, some less, majority are 2%. Personnel Board voted unanimously for a 2% cost of living this year.

Veteran's position has changed due to change in responsibilities and change in the job description and comparison to other communities.

Benefits Coordinator – Intent is to hire an individual July 1 and work side by side with Personnel Administrator in this position. This will be two positions for this department. Work in this department is growing there are a lot more retirees and increase in work load.

Grants – Applications are handled by Administration and Department Heads.

RTM Packages – will have back up information with the comparison to other communities.

MOTION MADE by A. Flowers, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action on Article 3, Motion Passed (11-0-0) (11 voting) Unanimous.

Article 4 – Personnel Board Costs

No Action is being requested. This is generally a place holder put on the warrant.

MOTION MADE by M. Trudell, Seconded by S. Lawson for No Action, Motion Passed (11-0-0) (11 voting) Unanimous

Article 21 – PEG Access/Cable Related Funds – Present were J. Fountain and J. Dattilio of Walpole Media. \$467,504 requested, (Operating Expenses of \$409,504 and \$58,000 capital) Money is not tied into the TV package. It was explained that they are a non-profit corporation created by the Town. They are located at the high school and will need to look for additional space eventually. Staff consists of three full time personnel and part time free lancers. Only two of the three full time personnel carry the insurance, but there is the need to have it in the budget, all employees need to be treated the same. Money received from Comcast and Verizon goes into a separate account to pay for Walpole Media. \$58,000 being requested for capital items and is to upgrade the Selectmen's studio.

They are working with the Recreation Department to offer various classes. Streaming on U-tube has been a great success. High School is offering a number of classes.

MOTION MADE by M. Trudell, Seconded by R. Nottebart for \$467,500, Motion Passed (11-0-0) (11 voting)

Articles 27, 28 - Speed Limit Establishment/Police Chief J. Carmichael -

Article 27 – Accept MGL Ch. 90, section 17C, allowing the Board of Selectmen to establish a speed limit of 25 miles per hour in a thickly settled or business district (not state highway) This would be down from 30 mph to 25 mph. Idea is to generally reduce speed and keep community safer. Chief explained that signs would be posted as you enter the town. Department would issue plenty of warnings. A number of towns have done this and some are still going through the process.

Committee members spoke to the problem is enforcement and it will not help to go from 30 mph to 25 mph. There is a need to enforce in the thickly settled areas. Challenge is education and the need to get the information out to the public Committee discussed putting a notice on the census forms advising the residents or put in quarterly tax bills and providing highlighted maps of the area.

Chief spoke to the police are very responsive and doing the best they can, the motorcycles help. They use devices showing when and how much speed. If this article passes, they will have the whole summer to educate the residents.

Article 28 – Accept MGL, Ch. 90, section 18B allowing Board of Selectmen to establish designated “safety zone” with a speed limit of 20 mph. on any street that is not a state highway (State highway requested the approval of the Department of Transportation. This supersedes the unposted limits set by section 17 (apparently including the 20 mph school zone limits)

MOTION MADE by R. Nottebart, Seconded by M. Trudell for Favorable Action on Article 27, Motion Passed (10-1-0) (J. Leith opposed) (11 voting)

MOTION MADE by R. Nottebart, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action on Article 28, Motion Passed (11-0-0) (11 voting) Unanimous

Snow and Ice Update

Town Administrator updated the committee. Balance in this account last week was \$260,000, \$150,000 after last week’s storm. Costs \$40,000 to clean up the center of town.

Capital Budget Committee

They are still meeting and will make their recommendations on March 14, 2018. There are minor change to the requests and will meet with the Finance Committee on March 15, 2018.

Adjourn:

MOTION MADE by S. Lawson, Seconded by A. Flowers to adjourn at 8:15 p.m.,
Motion Approved (11-0-0) (11 voting) Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Clare P. Abril
Clerk