

FINANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

March 19, 2019

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Monday, March 19, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in Room #112, Town Hall, with the following members present. P. Stasiukevicius, J. Burke, M. Trudell, A. Hamilton, T. Bowen, R. Mariani, R. Nottebart, S. Lawson, A. Flowers, M. Clow, J. Leith, P. Hinton and L. Huempfner. Members absent were J. Vaillancourt and E. Barmakian. Also in attendance was Fire Chief T. Bailey, Finance Director M. Thompson, Town Accountant J. Cuneo.

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 Warrant

Article 32 – Wetland Protection By-law Amendments - L. Hershey, Conservation Agent present for this discussion This article is being proposed to clean up some clerical and typographical errors that have been found. Changes are pretty basic.

MOTION MADE by M. Trudell, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action on Article 32 with the proposed amendments to Section 561 General By-laws, Wetland Protection By-law, Motion Approved (12-0-1) (L. Huempfner abstained) (13 voting)

Article 5 – FY2018 Budget Adjustments

Town Administrator is not recommending this article at this time, He is reviewing the budgets with the Finance Department. Schools, Legal and Snow and Ice Budget are tight at this time. Fire Department appears to be o'kay at this time. Finance Committee could make a Recommendation at Town Meeting or hold off prior to the publication date.

Article 8 – Water Enterprise Fund

2.25% proposed for the water rates, current balance in the Water Retained Earnings is \$1,266,753. At the request of the Finance Committee the \$250,000 for the MWRA hookup has been taken out of the original budget request.

MOTION MADE by M. Trudell, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action on Article 8 in the amount of \$5,964,318, (13-0-0) (13 voting) Unanimous

If there is a substitute motion at Town Meeting on the MWRA Assessment on this article, the \$250,000 could be presented under Article 7 (MWRA Agreements)

Article 8 – Sewer Enterprise Fund

Proposed sewer rates to increase 3.17%, balance in Sewer Retained Earnings is \$2,067,513.

MOTION MADE by M. Trudell, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action on Article 9, Sewer Enterprise Fund in the amount of \$5,985,880, Motion Passed (13-0-0) (13 voting) Unanimous

Article 11 – Prior Year's Unpaid Bills

Town Administrator is unaware of anything outstanding bills at this time, recommends holding this article

Article 12 – Snow and Ice Deficit

Town Administrator provided an update on this budget. He anticipates there is only \$3,000 - \$5,000 left in the budget after last week's storm. There is another storm projected for this week. He is looking to the Board of Assessors for additional funding from the Overlay Account (\$120,000 balance) and there is possibly some money left in the Debt Service and Unemployment Budgets. He is recommending holding action at this time.

Articles 13 Stabilization and Article 14 – OPEB

Committee is scheduled to meet with the Auditors and the actuarial firm First Southwest on April 5. Recommending holding action on these articles, at this time.

Article 16 – Firefighter's Contract

Negotiations are ongoing and possibly will be settled within the next week. Town Administrator will have to then bring it to Board of Selectmen for ratification. Action held at this time.

Article 15 – Dispatcher's Contract

Contract has been ratified by the Board of Selectmen. This is a new contract, dispatchers had previously been under the Personnel By-Laws. Currently there are seven dispatchers, this will increase to ten full time. Town has the authority to still hire part-time dispatchers. There will be two full time dispatchers working 24/7 at a standard working schedule that is set by the Police Chief. There will be a 0% increase, the first year, Year 2 –

salary schedule will be reduced from 15 steps to 6 steps. Year 3, is an adjustment of a 2% cost of living adjustment. All employees hired prior to December 20, 2017 will receive \$1,000 in year two and three of the contract in lieu of the dispatchers agreeing to handling police and fire dispatching. There is a 2% pay shift differential. There will be a dispatch supervisor who reports directly to the police chief. Contract takes effect as of July 1, 2017.

MOTION MADE by Mark, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action on Article 15, Dispatcher's Contract in the amount of \$33,500 from Taxation, Motion Passed (13-0-0) (13 voting) Unanimous

Schedule Update

No meetings scheduled as of March 29 and April 2, 2018 at this time.

Adjourn:

MOTION MADE by S. Lawson, Seconded by M. Trudell to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Motion passed (13-0-0) (13 voting) Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Clare P. Abril
Clerk