

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES**

**March 2, 2017**

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Thursday, March 2, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in Room #112, Town Hall with the following members present: D. Bruce, J. Burke, T. Bowen, J. Stasiukevicius, E. Barmakian, R. Nottebart, R. Mariani K. Guyette, P. Hinton, S. Lawson, J. Leith. M. Trudell, 7:25 p.m. A. Healy, J. Vaillancourt. Member absent was J. Denneen. S & Water, R. Mattson, J. Spillane, W. Abbott, DPW Director R. O'Brien, Fire Chief T. Bailey and Finance Director M. Thompson,

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

#### **May 1, 2017 Spring Annual Town Meeting**

Superintendent of Water and Sewer R. Mattson spoke to the five articles that are on the Town Meeting Warrant. Two of them are the operating budgets and three are capital items.

#### **Article 5 – Water Department Budget**

\$949,286 being requested for Salaries, \$1,615,310 for Expenses and \$870,000 for Capital. Total of \$3,434,596. Town has 165 miles of water mains, 8089 connections, 1360 hydrants, 1505 valves, 18 wells, 4 booster pump stations, 6 water storage tanks and 2 water treatment facilities. Indirect costs are up \$104,000, FY2014 was \$130,000. Included in the capital is \$200,000 as the Water Department's share of the proposed Vehicle Maintenance Garage. (Article 21).

**MOTION MADE** by S. Lawson, Seconded by M. Trudell for Favorable Action on Article 5 in the amount of \$949,286, Salaries, \$1,615,310 Expenses and Capital in the amount of \$870,000 for a total of \$3,434,596, Motion Passed (12-0-0) (12 voting) Unanimous

#### **Article 6 – FY2018 Sewer Department Budget**

\$297,580 requested for Salaries, \$4,035,440 for Sewer and \$567,550 for Capital for a total of \$4,900,570. Town has 89 miles of sewer mains, 5,699 connections and 8 pump stations. 60% of the homes in Walpole are sewerred, but the MWRA Assessment is based on entire population. Increase of 2.26% of the operating budget over FY2017, due mainly to the rate increases from the MWRA assessment. Under the Capital there is one half share of a Kubota Mini Excavator (\$27,550) to be shared with Highway Department.

There is also included under Sewer Capital a \$300,000 share from the Sewer Department for the proposed Public Works Vehicle Maintenance Garage (Article 21). . All capital equipment requested are replacements.

7:25 p.m. – Committee Members A. Healy, J. Vaillancourt

**MOTION MADE** by S. Lawson, Seconded by M. Trudell for Favorable Action on Article 6 – Sewer Department Budget in the amount of \$297,580 for Salaries, \$4,035,440 for Expenses and \$567,550 for Capital for a total of \$4,900,570, Motion Passed (12-0-2) (A. Healy, J. Vaillancourt abstained) (14 voting)

#### **Article 14 – Old Post Road Storage Tank**

\$890,000 requested for the repair, rehabilitation and recoating of the .5 mg steel water storage tank located on Old Post Road. This tank was constructed and placed into service in 1971 and has never been recoated or has had any maintenance done. Mr. Mattson said that it needs to be rehabilitated now instead of waiting till it is leaking. It would then cost in the vicinity of 1 million for repairs. Recommended funding would be for 10 years by borrowing. Life expectancy of a new tank is 50 – 75 years. Rehabilitation would be 30 years. He would like to do the work in the Fall.

**MOTION MADE** by S. Lawson, Seconded by M. Trudell for Favorable Action on Article 14 – Old Post Road Storage Tank in the amount of \$890,000 by borrowing, Motion Passed (14-0-0) (14 voting) Unanimous

#### **Article 15 – Cast Iron Pipeline Replacements**

\$1,120,000 being requested to allow for the contract replacement of +/- 4500 LF of old unlined 6” cast iron water main on Thornell Ave., Cascade Terrace, Barstow Rd. and Shufelt Rd. These improvements are part of a multi component system optimization approach to address water quality and hydraulic issues in these areas. Life expectancy of these pipes is 75 – 100 years. They anticipate spending 6 – 8 million over the next 5 years. They try to keep the rate increases in check doing it this way. Age, water quality and hydraulics determine areas to be done.

**MOTION MADE** by S. Lawson, Seconded by J. Burke for Favorable Action on Article 15 – Cast Iron Pipeline Replacements in the amount of \$1,120,000 by borrowing, Motion Passed (14-0-0) (14 voting) Unanimous

#### **Article 16 – Pilot Treatment Study**

\$500,000 being requested for the procurement of professional services to perform a demonstration pilot study that would identify the best available technology to remove the compound 1,4 Dioxane from the water that is pumped from the Town’s largest producing Well (Washington #6). It will also allow for the legal services that would be associated with potential litigation and/or the attempted recovery of costs from responsible parties.

Recent detected levels = .16ppb MA DEP Guideline is .3ppb. Dioxane is currently not regulated and is found in household cleaners, detergents, shampoos, deodorants and cosmetics. It is used in industrial use in degreasing solvents. Study will take no less than one year. Testing has been mandated by State. Town started in 2012 the monitoring. It is believed to come from old Metal Bellows facility. Only well that Dioxane is showing up is Washington Well No. 6. Town is within the guidelines. The \$500,000 estimate for this study is from a water quality firm. Money spent for legal work, it is hoped that it will recover the costs of the study. EPA oversees the pilot study. We need to do the study if we are going to spend one to one and one half million to correct the problem. Board of Health is aware of the issue. Mr. Mattson felt that eventually this will be regulated. It is good to be pro-active, and a step ahead and have the research done. It is bust to address as many contaminants as we can with the study and see what can be done to improve the overall quality of the water.

**MOTION MADE** by T. Bowen, Seconded by P. Hinton for Favorable Action on Article 16 in the amount of \$500,000 from borrowing, Motion Passed (12-1-1) (J. Vaillancourt opposed, K. Guyette abstained) (14 voting)

### **Longview Farm Update**

Town Administrator spoke to the Facility is less and less under control. Number of calls by Police Department has increased in the last three years. Residents are in the school system. This facility is causing the Town money. Facility has made application for more beds and is pending before the Zoning Board of Appeals. Town Administrator will be drafting a letter along with the Police Chief to the Selectmen regarding this issue.

### **DPW Director R. O'Brien re: Snow & Ice Budget**

In a letter dated February 24, 2017 Mr. O'Brien advised the committee that under the Municipal Reform Act it allows municipalities to overspend the Snow and Ice Budget due to the emergency nature of the expenditure without requesting permission from the Finance Committee. (This had previously been required).

### **Minutes**

**MOTION MADE** by T. Bowen, Seconded by S. Lawson to approve the **February 11, 2017** minutes, Motion Passed (14-0-0) (14 voting) Unanimous

**MOTION MADE** by S. Lawson, Seconded by J. Burke to approve the minutes of **February 16, 2017**, Motion Passed (12-0-2) (K. Guyette and R. Mariani abstained) (14 voting)

### **Open Meeting Law**

Discussion on the Open Meeting Law will be discussed at a future meeting.

**Adjourn:**

**MOTION MADE** by S. Lawson, Seconded by M. Trudell to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m., Motion Passed (14-0-0) (14 voting) Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Clare P. Abril  
Clerk

.