

FINANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

February 28, 2013

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Thursday, February 28, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. in Room #112, Town Hall, with the following members present: L. Pitman, M. Kent, D. DiCenso, S. Ahmed, M. Iwanowicz, J. Burke, D. Bruce, J. Denneen. S. Lawson, J. McDermott, T. Williams., C. Lane Also Town Administrator M. Boynton, Town Accountant J. Cuneo, Fire Chief T. Bailey Absent : P. Hinton, J. Lowre, and D. Crowley

7:30 p.m. – Quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by the Chairman L. Pitman.

May 6, 2013 Spring Annual Town Meeting

Articles 6 and 7 Water & Sewer – Speaking to these articles was R. Mattson, Superintendent of Sewer and Water Rick Mattson

Article 7 – Water & Department Operations and Maintenance Budget

Mr. Mattson provided a background on the Water Department, Town has 155 miles of water mains, 7905 connections 1275 hydrants, 1400 valves, 18 wells, 8 storage tanks, and 2 water treatment facilities. Expenses are basically level funded with the only significant change is the increase in water treatment chemicals due to a conversion from a sodium based corrosion control solution to a more costly potassium based solution. If this was not done, chemicals would be difficult to maintain and would present a safety factor.

Salary – No new positions and no additional hours. Department consists of 10 DPW workers and 2 clerical employees assigned to the Water Department. Included in the salary line item are the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent plus the ½ salary for the Board of Sewer and Water Commissioner's secretary. Two full time positions and the DPW personnel are part of their respective unions. Town Administrator handles the negotiations for union contracts.

Capital Projects - \$274,505 requested, to be funded through Retained Earnings, (\$202,505 for 1500 lf of water main replacement on North Street from Old North Street to Town Line, \$27,000 to replace vehicle, #461 which was purchased in 2006, has 80,000 miles and used off road, and \$45,000 for Town Hall and Water Treatment Plant Security Camera Systems. Contract for the water main construction should be awarded soon and construction to start shortly and be in seravicve on line November, 2013. handout) Money would be borrowed short term then into a 20 year note. 70 % of Water Department funds are used for production and treatment, and 30% for salaries. It is

anticipated that water rates could go up 6.17%, but Mr. Mattson doesn't feel Sewer and Water Commissioners will allow this large increase. They are the ones that set the water rates.

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by J. Burke for Favorable Action on Article 7 in the amount of \$4,281,315, Motion Passed (12-0-0) (12 voting) Unanimous

Article 8 – Sewer Department Operations and Maintenance Budget

Mr. Mattson provided the Committee with a background of the Sewer Department: Town has 84 miles of sewer mains, 5,300 connections and 6 pump stations.

Salaries – department consists of 3 DPW workers and 1 clerical position and one half of the salary for the Sewer and Water Commissioner's Secretary.

Expenses over previous year in the amount of \$60,670 related to costs associated with the annual MWRA assessment (\$3,400,000) and the reopening of the Septage Receiving Facility located on Robbins Road (\$32,625) and other miscellaneous operational expenses (\$104,990). Mr. Mattson explained that Canton closed their Septage facility and all haulers that previously went there, now come to Walpole. Facility is operated on an on call basis and hauler is required to call an hour in advance.

Capital Projects – requested \$72,000, \$27,000 for an additional ½ ton 4 WD pick up for the Sewer Distribution/Pump Station and \$45,000 for a Septage Facility Monitoring/Security System. These will be funded through retained earnings

Mr. Mattson spoke to staffing in the Water and Sewer Departments adequate at this time.

MOTION MADE for Favorable Action on Article 8 in the amount of \$4,124,368 by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson, Motion Passed (12-0-0) (12 voting) Unanimous

Debt Service

Speaking to this budget was Finance Director M. Good, and he summarized the long term debt obligations, and short term. All projects that could be cost effective have been refinanced.

MOTION MADE by S. Lawson, Seconded by J. Denneen for Favorable Action on Debt Budget in the amount of \$3,107,503, Motion Passed (12-0-0) (12 voting) Unanimous

Town Administrators will provide the Committee with a forecast of future debt projects as related to the Maguire Report.

School Tours

Chairman will speak to Superintendent of Schools L. Lynch on setting up different times for the Committee to tour the school facilities. Schools had scheduled four tours in one morning making it difficult for Committee members to visit more than one school in one morning.

Legal

On a question from the Committee, Town Administrator spoke to the legal work (\$5,000) involved with the Clock Tower Building being paid out of the Legal Budget

Article 19 – Revolving Funds

Discussion ensued on the number of the different funds listed in the Recreation Section, included are the salaries and expenses. Held for further discussion.

Minutes

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by T. Williams to accept the minutes of the February 14, 2013 meeting, Motion Passed (12-0-0 (12 voting))

Adjourn

MOTION MADE by L Pitman, Seconded by T. Williams to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m., Motion Passed (12-0-0) (12 voting) Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Clare P. Abril
Clerk