

DRAFT

Finance Committee

Minutes

February 22, 2016

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Monday, February 22, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Finance Committee Room, #112, Town Hall with the following members present: J. Denneen, J. Burke, J. McDermott, M. Trudell, K. Guyette, T. Bowen, P. Stasiukevicius, S. Lawson, J. Lowre. Members absent were: D. Bruce, J. Vaillancourt, R. Mariani, A. Healy, P. Hinton and D. Crowley. Also in attendance was Town Administrator J. Johnson and Fire Chief T. Bailey, Finance Director M. Thompson, and Town Accountant J. Cuneo.

7:00 p.m. – called to order by the Acting Chairman J. McDermott.

May 2, 2016 Spring Annual Town Meeting

General Government Budgets

Solid Waste/Recycling

Speaking to this budget was Health Director R. Chapell

Budget increase of \$50,000 over last year. This is the fifth year of a five year contract. She will begin contract negotiations for the following years shortly. Contract for Wheelabrator has dropped down. Town is doing a good job with recycling. They have looked into single stream.

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action on the Solid Waste/Recycling Budget in the amount of 1,629,125, Motion Passed (9-0-0) (9 voting) Unanimous

Board of Health

Speaking to this budget was Health Director R. Chapell

There were no major increase in the budget, salary line items are pretty consistent. There is an increase in Travel-In State in the amount of \$150, but it was felt that the amount of \$1,000 was adequate.

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action on the Board of Health Budget in the amount of \$308,433, Motion Passed (9-0-0) (9 voting) Unanimous

Council on Aging

Speaking to this budget was Council on Aging Director Courtney Sullivan

It was explained that there is not a big increase over last year. Budget is supplemented from State Grants. There is an addition of \$1,000 for Meetings and Conferences, this is for the new outreach worker.

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action on the Council on Aging Budget in the amount of \$191,590, Motion Passed (9-0-0) (9 voting) Unanimous

Veterans Services

Speaking to this Budget was Jon Cogan, Veterans Services Director

Department has institute a new tracking system for benefit services for Veterans. Town receives 75% reimbursement from the State on Veterans Benefits. It was explained that it is difficult to plan on the amount of Veterans seeking services and he spoke to possibly needing a Reserve Fund Transfer in the future for this line item. Town receives the reimbursement on an ongoing basis.

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action on the Veterans Services Budget in the amount of \$121,869, Motion Passed (9-0-0) (9 voting) Unanimous

Library

Speaking to this Budget was Library Director S. Genovese and Library Trustee E. Hunt Bergen

It was brought to the Committee's attention that as the population of the Town increases to 25,000 (presently 24,818) that the Library will be required to add an additional hour on the Library schedule. They are presently open 56 hours. They will not need to hire extra personnel, they will use present staff and won't increase benefits. There is a three year time frame to institute this. Assessment for the Old Colony Network has gone up due to circulation increase. There is a slight increase in the water and sewer utilities, as these line items are difficult to predict.

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action on the Library Budget in the amount of \$804,541, Motion Passed (9-0-0) (9 9oting) (Unanimous

Recreation

Speaking to this budget was Patrick Shield, Recreation Director

A handout was provided on the different programs available. They are attempting to manage the programs differently this year. They have a tracking program for the 53E ½ accounts which enables the staff to plan programs. They have over 700 programs. Summer is the busiest. There is a 4.2% reduction in the budget over the previous years. There are taking expenditures and assigning them to specific accounts. There is an increase in telephone line item as it is required by law to have a land line at each pool. (\$700 each pool)

Sharon Country Day Camp Update – Town purchased last year through the Water and Sewer Commissioners. They are in the process of developing summer programs. Most of the ages are 5-12 for the summer day camp. It will offer sports, arts and crafts and gymnastics. They anticipate 80 children will sign up and non-residents pay a higher rate. Jarvis Farm Committee is in charge of the facility and is an advisory committee. Sewer and Water Commissioners have the final say on the use of the property, it is their property. They are making a developing a fee schedule and uses for the property. It is anticipated that next year will be used more with the addition of new programs. Camps will be for eight weeks and they will be discussing with the Sewer and Water Commissioners using the pond. The pond can only be used by the camp and would not be open to the public. Fee structure will be set up and a portion going to the Sewer and Water Budget.

Pools – Update – They are in good decision. Town came close to breaking even on costs this past year. This is done in a revolving fund. Lifeguards are not covered under the revolving fund. There are different regulations for pools and ponds. Ponds require a flotation device available for everyone in the water. Water is tested regularly and if there is an issue, they are shut down immediately.

Drivers Education Program – This is done through a contract and Town receives 20%.

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action on the Recreation Budget in the amount of \$219,995, Motion Passed (9-0-0) (9 voting)
Unanimous

Historical Commission

J. Johnson, Town Administrator spoke to this budget.

\$615 is the total budget, it is a volunteer commission, with a part time secretary (\$300)

MOTION MADE by J. McDermott, Seconded by J. Denneen for Favorable Action on the Historical Commission Budget in the amount of \$615, Motion Passed (9-0-0) (9 voting) Unanimous

Town Celebrations

J. Johnson, Town Administrator spoke to this budget.

\$1500 for the Christmas lights downtown. Work is done by the Chamber of Commerce and they bill the Town

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action on the Celebrations Budget in the amount of \$1500, Motion Passed (9-0-0) (9 voting)
Unanimous

Trails Committee

J. Johnson, Town Administrator spoke to this budget

\$650 being requested. They are a volunteer committee and involved with the Jarvis Farm in trying to connect Jarvis Farm to the Town Forest trails.

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action on the Trails Committee Budget in the amount of \$650, Motion Passed (9-0-0) (9 voting)
Unanimous

FinCom Meeting of February 25, 2016

Packet provided to the Committee on information on the Siemens discussion scheduled for that evening. It is anticipated that two representatives from Siemens will be present and members of the Board of Selectmen. Town has only been provided with a conceptual plan on the property at this time. If any questions regarding this project, contact the Town Administrator and he will attempt to get the answers.

Adjourn:

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson to adjourn at 7:50 p.m,
Motion Passed (9-0-0) (9 voting) Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Clare P. Abril
Clerk

