

FINANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

March 13, 2014

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Thursday, March 13, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the Finance Committee Room, #112, with the following members present: J. Denneen, J. Burke, J. McDermott, D. Bruce, S. Lawson, J. Lowre, T. Williams P. Hinton and S. Ahmed. Absent were : C. Lane, L. Pitman, A. Healy, D. Crowley and D. DiCenso. Also Town Administrator M. Boynton, Town Accountant J. Cuneo and Finance Director M. Thompson.

7:30 p.m. – Quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by the Acting Chairman S. Lawson.

May 5, 2014 Spring Annual Town Meeting

7:30 p.m. – Sewer and Water, present were S & W. Superintendent R. Mattson and S & W Chairman J. Spillane.

Article 7 – Water Enterprise Fund

This is for the operations and maintenance of the Water Department. Capital requests are included in the Capital Budget. There is no significant increases in the fund, it is basically level funded. Increase in shipping for water chemicals and fuel for vehicles. They are not giving serious consideration to solar, could possible be put on the roof the Willis Treatment Plant. Salaries are \$913,711, Operating \$1,504,055.

Salaries for this department consist of ten public works and two clerical employees, Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent and one half the salary of the Sewer and Water Commission Secretary.

Article 7 - Capital

\$305,000 Duffy Water Store Tank Improvements \$137,500 for Allston Drive Water Main Replacement, \$275,000 for Morningside Drive Water Main Replacement, \$32,500 for Water Treatment Plant (SCADA) and \$22,000 for Water Treat men Plant Analytical Equipment for a total of \$772,000. Funds are available July 1.

Retained Earnings Update – Mr. Mattson explained that earnings are doing well. There is concern that in the future they will have to reduce the amount of usage and reduction of what is pumped out of the wells. Retained earnings would go down, rates will go down with reduction of consumption. 75% of water pumped goes to water management. Reduction in volume is going to seriously hurt economic development, but

it shouldn't hurt residential. Commissioners have concerns with Washington Wells, they sit on the DPW. It is a massive infrastructure and has to be maintained. Strategic plan is to replace pipes in the amount of 14,000,000 be scheduled by age and history. They synchronize with Engineering Department on pavement reconstruction.

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by J. McDermott for Favorable Action on the Water Enterprise Fund in the amount of \$5,641,361, Motion Passed (9-0-0) (9 voting) Unanimous

Article 8 – Sewer Enterprise Fund

Department consists of three public works employees and one clerical position and one half the salary of the Sewer and Water Commissioner's secretary. Expense portion of this budget is increased by \$109,863 over the FY2014 amount of \$3,537,615. This is primarily due to the MWRA assessment. (\$3,509,912)

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by J. Burke for Favorable Action on the Sewer Enterprise Fund in the amount of \$4,511,976, Motion Passed (9-0-0) (9 voting) Unanimous

Article 8 - Capital – Requesting \$15,000 for a Septage Facility Overhead Door, and replacement of 2006 Ranger Truck #461 in the amount of \$27,000.

Article 15 – Water Storage Tank

\$2,650,000 being requested for the replacement of the existing water storage tank (constructed in 1970) on Old Post Road. Options before the Sewer and Water Commissioner were to rehab existing tank (this will not address water pressure in area), put in line booster date, take down existing tank or do nothing. This replacement has created anxieties in the neighborhood, There is also the issue of communications on the tank for the police and fire departments communications and concerns for the 137 ft. cell tower. Best option is to replace the existing tank, but problem is taking it out of service and there won't be any fire water storage available in the area. This is a two year project and Commissioners have to go to the Planning Board and Zoning Board prior to commencing construction, construction take about 3 months. Commissioners are going to meet with residents to obtain their input and decide whether to go forward this Spring or delay till Fall. All the data needs to be coordinated and should be available March 24, 2014. Concerns expressed by the Committee were that there are a lot of questions and article will not be ready for this Town Meeting.

Adjourn:

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MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m., Motion Passed (9-0-0) (9 voting) (Unanimous)

Respectfully submitted,

Clare P. Abril

Clerk