

Minutes

Finance Committee

January 31, 2019

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by Dan Sherman

Present:, Dan Sherman, Jim Sullivan, Peter McManama, Jonathan Chines, Dennis Hogan, Joe Bertrand, Morgan McCauley, Evan Kenney, Joe Tringale, Brian Cusack, Joanne Reilly Rebecca Gilding and Doug Butler

Not in Attendance: Jan Digiambattista and Gerard Leeman

Also in Attendance: Town Administrator Stephen P. Maio, Town Accountant Kevin Gill, Tax Collector Kathy Kelly, Assessor Victor Santaniello, Town Clerk Betsy Sheeran, member of the Board of Health Laurel Gourville, Health Agent Ruth Clay, Superintendent of Schools Doug Lyons, Business Manager Michael Pfifferling and School Committee Members Christopher Callanan and Anne Fortier

- 1) Public Participation: None
- 2) Motion to approve minutes of the minutes for the January 17, 2019 meeting by Joe Bertrand
Seconded by Dennis Hogan and so voted.

- 3) The following FY2020 Budgets were presented:

Budget #4 – Treasurer

Budget #7 – Tax Collector

Budget #8 – Assessor

Budget #9 – Town Clerk

Budget #10 – Election & Registration

Budget #26 – Board of Health

Budget #37 – Miscellaneous Town Council

Budget #40 -- Medicare

- 4) Discussion on FY2019 and FY2020 School Department Budget:
Superintendent Lyons presented a power point regarding the educational strategy of the School Department. The strategy is the driving force behind increased resources necessary for instruction, curriculum upgrades as well as enhancing services for the emotional wellbeing of the students. The Finance Committee School Budget Subcommittee members (Peter McManama and Jim Sullivan), both stated that the meetings with the School department have

been productive and transparent. There seems to be a good forecast on known special education costs. The Finance Committee is concerned over how the negotiations with all of the unions will affect the overall budget. Many members would like to have a Finance Committee member included in negotiations. Overall the School Department is currently considering a 5.6% budget increase. This increase would exceed our projected revenue growth of 4%. The recent history of budget increases in all departments as well as the “agreement” that the school budget increases would be held to 4% was discussed. A growing consensus seems to be emerging that the 4% “agreement” may be defunct but that the overall growth in the budget needs to be consistent with our revenue growth numbers.

5) Committee Comments:

Jonathan Chines presented on the Town Hall Budgets.

Dan Sherman requested two volunteers for the Public Safety Building Reassessment Committee.

6) Motion to adjourn at 9:40 by Evan Kenney seconded by Joseph Bertrand and so voted.