

Essex Finance Committee
March 7, 2016
6:30 pm
Essex Senior Center – First Floor

Members Present: Justin Bourgette, David Gabor, Richard Ross, Ken Reihl

1. Transfers FY16 – The Finance Committee approved one transfer for \$300 from the Treasurer postage to Treasurer telephone budget lines. This was for unforeseen telephone line charges as the line is no longer billed as part of the DSL.
2. Old Business – Approved minutes for the February 22, 2016 meeting
3. New Business – Discuss FY2017 budget

After reaching out to the Police Chief in regard to his budget request the committee requested that he come and speak to this meeting and speak about the budget reductions. Chief Silva mentioned that there is limited room in the budget as many of the larger line items are guaranteed by labor contracts. The Finance Committee still felt there was room to reduce the budget request and tasked Chief Silva with the reducing \$10,000 from the budget (excluding the community policing line item). The Finance Committee also asked the Town Accountant to run budget vs. actuals for the past three fiscal years for the police budget.

The Finance Committee also discussed the following reductions to the budget; \$50,000 in Conomo Point legal expenses, reducing the Finance Committee reserve fund by \$15,000 and reducing the town property expense line to the FY 2016 budget amount, or a \$10,000 reduction. These amount to \$85,000 in net reductions from the operating budget. The Finance Committee also would prefer the tax liability of \$212,010.54 to be funded out of town free cash and not paid for with taxation.

4. Public Comment – No public comment
6. Attend Board of Selectmen meeting at 8:30 to discuss FY2017 budgets

The Finance Committee met with the Town Administrator and the Board of Selectmen to determine other ways to reduce the budget requests to stay under the levy limit. The Finance Committee notified all present that they were able to reduce \$85,000 from the operating budget.

The discussion then moved the capital budget. The Folsom Pavilion project was reduced from \$60,000 to \$35,000 as the Town Administrator believed that to be a better estimate for design plans. The full cost will not be known until the design goes out to bid. The dump truck for the DPW was kept on the capital budget so the DPW could have the equipment by next winter. The final reductions were the removal of \$50,000 for Conomo Point management as the town felt they have sufficient funds set aside at this time. The final capital line item of \$150,000 for Conomo Point design and improvements was discussed. The Town Administrator had reached out to legal counsel and it was determined that the town could use the sale of real estate funds for design as well as construction.

These reductions and changes in funding sources allowed the town to present a budget within the levy limit.

REQUEST FOR A LINE ITEM TRANSFER

Requests are to be made and transfers voted BEFORE any expenditure is incurred.
Please submit only one copy.

TO: FINANCE COMMITTEE, Town of Essex:

FROM:

REQUEST FOR A LINE ITEM TRANSFER FROM ACCOUNT # 1100-2145 53214.00

Title T/C Postage

1. Amount Requested \$ 300.00

2. To be transferred to account # 1100-2145 53411.00

TO:

Title T/C Telephone

3. The specific purpose the amount requested will be used for:
Charges to Telephone Line - no longer
billed as DSL - Charges were unknown
at budget time

4. This expenditure is extraordinary and/or unforeseen for the following reasons:
Charges were unknown at Budget
Time

Date 31.7.16

Signed Virginia Antell

Department T/C

Date of meeting 3 17 12/16

vote: Yes No

Transfer voted in the sum of \$ 300

Transfer disapproved

FINANCE COMMITTEE

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