

Essex Finance Committee
February 24, 2014
7:45 pm
Essex Library/Town Hall

Members Present: Ken Riehl, Richard Ross and Jeff Soulard

1. Transfers

Approved one transfer by unanimous vote (see attached)

Approved an additional \$25,000 of spending for FY14 Snow and Ice Removal under Mass General Law Chapter 44 Section 31D (see attached)

2. Meeting Minutes

Approved February 3, 2014 Meeting Minutes

3. FY14 Budget Update

The Committee reviewed the YTD budget activity with the Town Accountant. Most items appear to be in line with expectations at this time.

4. FY15 Budget Discussion

Based on our discussions at the prior meeting and the final MERSD budget, the current budget is approximately \$50,000 over the Proposition 2 ½ Levy Limit. The Committee expects that we will reduce the budget below the Levy Limit with adjustments to the health insurance and Police budgets.

The Committee discussed the use of Local Meals Tax Revenue to fund the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Liability and the proposed Stabilization Funds for Repairs/Maintenance, Recreational Facilities and Vehicle/Equipment Purchases. As this is the first year the Town will receive the Local Meals Tax receipts, we will be conservative in our estimates for this revenue for FY15.

5. Old Business

None

6. New Business

None

7. Public Comment

None

8. Meet with Board of Selectmen

The Committee discussed the proposed full-time Fire Chief position with the Board of Selectmen. At this time, the FY15 Budget contains the funding for this position. Based on the discussion, it sounds like a decision on this position might not be ready for the Annual Town Meeting in May. Both the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen feel it is important to have a recommendation from the Public Safety Committee before making a decision on this position.

The Committee updated the Board of Selectmen on the status of the FY15 Budget (see above) and focused on the Capital and Special Articles.

We are scheduled to meet with the Board of Selectmen on March 10th to provide another update on the FY15 Budget. We expect to have most changes finalized at that time to bring the budget under the Proposition 2 ½ Levy Limit.

REQUEST FOR A LINE ITEM TRANSFER

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

To: Finance Committee – Town of Essex

1100.1.210.5111.00

Title: Police Officers' Salaries

1. Amount Requested: \$95,000.00

2. To be transferred to Account: 1100.1.210.5132.00

Title: Part Time Labor

3. The specific purpose the amount requested will be used for: Paying part time wages

4. This expenditure is extraordinary and/or unforeseen for the following reasons: Two part time officers are working as "full time intermittent reserves" while waiting to enter the academy. This means they are working full time hours (32-40). Academy Expenses are also figured in.

Date: 2/10/14

Signed: [Signature]

Date of meeting 2/24/14

Vote: [check] Yes _____ No

Transfer voted in the sum of \$95,000

Transfer disapproved _____

FINANCE COMMITTEE

[Signature]
[Signature]
Jeffrey Sowlard



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

44 CENTENNIAL GROVE ROAD • ESSEX, MASSACHUSETTS 01929
TEL. (978) 768-6431 (978) 768-6262 FAX (978) 768-2500

February 18, 2014

Board of Selectmen
Essex Town Hall
30 Martin Street
Essex, MA 01929

Dear Board of Selectmen;

I am requesting an additional \$25,000 for snow and ice removal. Currently with all outstanding invoices we will be about \$8,500 +/- in the red. That is including the additional \$30,000 already given. I am hopeful that these funds will be sufficient for the remainder of the season. Thank you in advance for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Paul Goodwin
DPW Superintendent

C44 S31D

cc: Finance Committee

Approved by
Fin Com
2/24/14