

Essex Finance Committee
February 22, 2016 6:30 pm
Essex Senior Center – First Floor

Members Present: Justin Bourgette, David Gabor, Mark McKenna, Richard Ross, Ken Riehl

1. Transfers FY16 – There was line item transfer approved at the meeting for the Library in the amount of \$100 to cover increased costs for a copier.
2. Meeting with departments on FY2017 budget:
 - a. 6:30 pm Superintendent of Public Works –
Paul Goodwin met with the finance committee to discuss the FY2017 budget as well as future capital projects. Most of the budget was level funded but the finance committee asked about unknowns in the budget. The general unknowns are snow removal, sewer pumps and unexpected issues at the water plant. Paul also expressed concern of rising regulatory cost for both the transfer station and water and sewer system. Looking out over the long term (10+ year) the town will need to replace its water mains which could include a new water treatment plant. Finally, Paul mentioned that he received a letter from the City of Gloucester with a claim for \$565,819.83 on owed funds for the 2000 intermunicipal agreement. This was also brought to the attention of the Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen to determine the reasonability of the claim.
 - b. 7:30 pm Manchester Essex Regional School District Superintendent Pam Beaudoin and Director of Finance and Operations Avi Urbas as well as two school committee members attended the finance committee meeting to discuss the FY 2017 proposed budget as well as future plans for the two elementary schools. The town finance committee has had a representative in close contact with the school department throughout the budget process. The discussion turned to student headcount including the additional students from the district going to the Vo Tech. Finally, there was discussion on the feasibility study for the replacement for Memorial School in Manchester which will a FY2017 request from the town to support.
3. Old Business - NA
4. New Business – Discuss FY2017 budget – Please see above for meeting with the DPW and Manchester Essex Regional School.
5. Public Comment - NA
6. Attended Board of Selectman meeting at 8:30 to discuss FY2017 budgets –
The first half of the joint finance committee and board of selectmen was a discussion with the Essex Vo Tech regional school district and school committee. The town of Essex's assessment increased for FY2017 as the headcount has jumped. The committee had questions on funding sources and how the town's assessment was calculated as well as future headcount projections as the school is ramping up to capacity. The committee then went through the draft town warrant with the town administrator. Finally the committee asked the selectman to prioritize items on currently on the FY2017 capital budget as not all will be funded.

