

Franklin Finance Committee Minutes

April 30, 2015

Town Council Chambers

Present: Susan Dewsnap, Bill Dowd, George Conley, Paul Aparo, Tim Smith, Pat Fleming, Keri Bertone

Absent: Linda Huempfer, Michael DuFour

Discussion, motion, agenda items

Meeting is being recorded. Noting a quorum present, Susan Dewsnap called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

No citizen's comments.

Motion to approve minutes from October 21, 2014: Approved 6/0 (Bertone not on October Committee)

Motion to approve minutes from April 22, 2015: Approved 7/0

Motion to vote on the budget presentations at the conclusion of all budget presentations: Approved 7/0

Action Items

Budget Presentations

1. Building Department – Level service budget and staffing
2. Appeal Board – Funds for notifications based upon appeals, advertising fees are reimbursed
3. Town Council – Level Service. Mainly for MA Municipal Association dues
4. Town Administrator – Addition of a deputy town administrator (2H '15). Half person staffing increase with a 2015 part-time retirement. Transition considerations to ensure seamless.
5. Finance Committee – Funds for expenses and dues. Level service budget.
6. Comptroller - Level service budget and staffing
7. Assessors - Level service budget and staffing
8. Treasurer/Collector - Level service budget and staffing
9. Legal – Increases due to collective bargaining arbitration related expenses. All contracts are up for renewal.
10. Human Resources – Healthcare provider change (~6% savings). Increases for medical exam costs (\$2K/exam). Level service budget and staffing.
11. Central Services – Increase of ~\$5K from PY. ~100% due to increased postage costs.
12. Animal Control - Level service budget and staffing. Service shared with Bellingham.
13. Memorial Day – Flags for veterans cemetery plots
14. Cultural Council – Level budget. Redistributed back via grants.
15. Debt – 2006 & 2007 bonds refunded in Feb 2015. HS and library re-fi in late May. General debt within prop 2 ½ at ~3.1% of the General Fund budget (3.5% cap). Other than the HS current debt to be paid off by 2018. Further debt obligations TBD
16. Employee Benefits - Flat OPEB from PY (policy is to increase by \$100k/yr. Other pressures. May revisit). Workers comp increase due to 3-yr rolling average. Unemployment expenses are down. Comp reserve for unsettled firefighters contract.
17. General Insurance – insurance for property casualty and liability. Increase from PY due to a HS sprinkler malfunction.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Next meeting May 4, 2015

Motion to adjourn at 8:25: Approved 7/0