



Town of Medway

FINANCE COMMITTEE

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September 9, 2015 – 7:00 PM
Sanford Hall, Town Hall
155 Village Street

Present: Frank Rossi, Chair; Chris Lagan, Vice Chair; Todd Alessandri, Clerk; Rohith Ashok; Ellen Hillery; Jeff O’Neill; and Michael Schrader (7:15 PM).

Absent: Meghan Hoffman, Jim Sullivan.

Others Present: Michael Boynton, Town Administrator; John Foresto, Selectman.

Chairman Rossi called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Discussion – Fall Town Meeting Warrant Articles:

The committee reviewed a Letter dated August 25, 2015 from the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Boynton provided an update on current year revenues, new growth and related topics. The Board of Selectmen will need to review the articles for Fall Town Meeting Warrant. Additionally, he reported that Melanie Phillips, Finance Director, will be retiring at the end of September. Town Accountant Carol Pratt will move into the role of Finance Director while retaining her Town Accountant duties and a new Treasurer-Collector will be sought. There could be some overlap when the new person comes on board.

At this time, Mr. Boynton stated he will likely need additional funds for legal expenses, noting that the proposed Exelon expansion project may necessitate considerable legal oversight. Invoices from July 1 – August 30 already total \$38,000. Additional consultants have been secured for specific types of review, including review of a PILOT agreement. He estimates that an additional \$25,000 may be necessary, but more may be required as time goes on. Responding to a question from Chairman Rossi, Mr. Boynton briefly described the project including the permitting process and oversight by Charles River Watershed Group, Conservation Law Foundation, Environmental Protection Agency and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. There will be continual review of all information submitted by Exelon throughout the process. The Town hopes to have consultants available at the October 21 informational meeting in order to answer questions that will come from residents.

There are a lot of projects relative to water supply and delivery that have been discussed over the past few years. Selectman Foresto explained that there are no plans to pass along any costs to the ratepayers, and advised that many discussions need to be held before any project goes forward. Chairman Rossi stated that residents need answers to their questions. Selectman Foresto concurred, noting that the Selectmen are asking the same questions. He expressed optimism that many questions may be answered at the October 21 meeting. While Exelon representatives are not invited to participate in the meeting, it is likely they will be in the audience. The meeting is for consultants to be available.

General Discussion:

Responding to a question about proposed increases in staff, Mr. Boynton briefly updated the committee on recent duties performed by the Fire Department that may necessitate an additional staff person. It is also important to get people cross-trained in the public safety departments as a shortage of one or two people makes a significant difference. Additionally, there are several individuals who will be retiring in the next few months in the Police Department.

Discussion followed on the proposed 40B project and its impact on the Town from the standpoint of increase in the school population, density in that neighborhood and impact on infrastructure. The project is still being reviewed by Mass Housing and would still have to go through review by the Zoning Board of Appeals.

An assisted-living facility proposed by the Salmon Group is being reviewed by the Planning Board. Updates should be available in the next month.

The Route 109 Construction Project has gone out to bid. The easements are being processed for those properties that will need utility poles or other structures installed. Mr. Boynton stated that it is planned to have one lane of traffic open on each side if possible. Traffic management will be a challenge to coordinate with other roadway projects around Town to minimize detours.

Brief discussion followed on the status of other roadways projects, proposed school projects, and need for a roof on the Thayer barn.

Chairman's Report:

Chairman Rossi stated he met with Selectman Crowley to discuss various things that have come before the Board of Selectmen. Borrowings, Cassidy Field improvements, proposed assisted-living facility, DPS moving to the middle school, and the proposed 40B project by Timber Crest LLC.

Clerk's Report:

Mr. Alessandri reported that he is reconciling the Finance Committee account, noting that the Finance Committee Reserve Fund still has its initial balance of \$100,000 intact.

Liaison Reports:

Ms. Hillery reported that the Community Preservation Committee is discussing a lot of potential projects, but there is nothing concrete to report on as yet.

Mr. Ashok reported that Medway Public Library is renovating the storage space, adding the area for the 3D printer which has been very popular. The renovation was able to retain a small amount of storage space.

Mr. Schrader stated that he has reached out to Tom Holder on DPS issues, and they will be meeting soon.

Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes:

The committee reviewed draft minutes from July 13, 2015.

Mr. O’Neill moved that the Finance Committee approve the meeting minutes of July 13, 2015 as presented; Mr. Ashok seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 5-0-2 – Ms. Hillery and Mr. Lagan abstained.

Upcoming Meetings:

The committee reviewed the following information: (1) Draft schedule of dates relative to Fall Town Meeting; (2) Letter dated August 20, 2015 from the Town Administrator; (3) FY16 Finance Committee Meeting Schedule; and (4) FY16 Liaison Assignments.

The next monthly meeting of the Finance Committee will be October 14 at 7:00 PM in Sanford Hall.

After brief discussion, it was decided to hold the Public Hearing to hear public input on financial articles on the Fall Town Meeting Warrant on Tuesday, October 20. The informational meeting on the proposed Exelon project will be on October 21.

At 8:30 PM Mr. O’Neill moved to adjourn; Mr. Lagan seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanette Galliardt
Night Board Secretary