

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Minutes

Date: March 21, 2016

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Present: O'Connell, Kupcinkas, Khalife, Noonan, Hebert, Cofske, Kennedy

Absent: None

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Jennifer O'Connell opened the public hearing at 7:00 p.m.

There was no public comment.

Jennifer O'Connell closed the public hearing at 7:01 p.m.

Chet Hanratty and Dr. Fitzpatrick from Blackstone Valley Tech were in to discuss their budget at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Fitzpatrick: I have been the Superintendent of Blackstone Valley Tech for 23 years. We are 1 of 26 Regional Vocational Technical Schools in Massachusetts. We have a 13 member School Committee, representing all the Towns that go to our school. Our goal for the coming year's budget was not to exceed 3%. We base our numbers on the Governor's budget, which we know changes.

Albert Kupcinkas: How much of an impact is Special Ed with your budget?

Dr. Fitzpatrick: They do not impact us that much. We are normally prepared for all Special Education students.

Dr. Fitzpatrick: Our requested budget for Millbury is an \$87,555 reduction. This is impacted by the student headcount as of October 1st. We have 60 hours of professional development each year. Our health care provider originally had a 15% increase. Now it is at 11.9%. We went for the lower premium and the higher deductible. We have a reduction in staff of about 3-1/2 full timers. This is support staff, not teachers. There is no capital equipment in this budget. We are grateful that we haven't had to increase student fees. We have the students work off the cost within their trade.

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Dr. Fitzpatrick and Chet Hanratty left at 8:30 p.m.

Motioned by Kupcinkas, seconded by Khalife to accept the minutes of March 5, 2016 as written. Unanimous.

Motioned by Kupcinkas, seconded by Hebert to: be advised that in conformity with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 31D, the finance Committee and the Town Manager approve expenditures in excess on the appropriation in the Fiscal Year 2016 Snow and Ice Accounts as allowed under the provisions of MGL Chapter 44, Section 31D. Unanimous.

Reserve Fund Transfer:

Steve Hebert: This is the largest transfer I have seen since I have been on the Committee.
Bob Spain: If it were earlier in the year, I wouldn't ask for it. There is nothing large coming up before the end of the Fiscal Year.

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Noonan to transfer \$55,000 from the Reserve Fund to Account #37.123.4970.37009.0000.422. Unanimous.

Holden Landmark Bill:

Motioned by Kupcinkas, seconded by Cofske to pay for the legal ad in the Holden Landmark for the public hearing under account number 01-131-5780-00000-0000-500 in the amount of \$40.00. Unanimous.

Steve Noonan: Who controls the payroll for the Asa Waters Mansion?

Bob Spain: We do. It goes through our office.

Steve Noonan: How do the part time people get paid?

Bob Spain: They don't have any. They are all volunteers.

Steve Noonan: They had been giving out 1099's. Now they are giving out W-2's.

Bob Spain: They could be paid from the "Friends" account.

Jennifer O'Connell: Next week we will go through as much of the budget as we can.

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Kupcinkas to adjourn at 9:10 p.m. Unanimous.

Jennifer O'Connell
Albert P. Kupcinkas

Steve Hebert
Chet Hanratty

Stephen Noonan
Bob Spain