

FINANCE COMMITTEE  
Minutes

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MILLBURY, MASS.  
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Date: March 27, 2017

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

Absent: Kennedy

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

Motioned by Khalife, seconded by Kupcinkas to accept the minutes of March 20, 2017 as written. Unanimous.

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Noonan to open the Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m.

There were no comments or questions on the FY2018 Budget.

Motioned by Kupcinkas, seconded by Khalife to close the Public Hearing at 7:05 p.m.  
Unanimous.

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

Dr. Fitzpatrick: I just want to express that we are not a town department. We received about ½ Million Dollars of stimulus money. We try not to ask our Towns to pay for things that we can get from grants. There is no new debt this year. We wanted to add a couple of new programs but were unable to get the required amount of Towns to approve it. I did meet the new Town Manager and he has already given the students a project to work on. Millbury has six additional students as of October 1<sup>st</sup>. I also want to make sure that you are aware that the students printed our budget book. We try to save money when we can. If we can do something in-house, we do that. State Revenues provide about 40% of our budget. Some Towns have used one-time stimulus money for re-occurring costs, causing them to vote an override on their budget. We have not asked the Towns to vote any overrides. Our previous transportation company went bankrupt and we now have a new company out of Franklin. Health Insurance costs have increased 13-15% for next year. We offer Harvard Pilgrim and Fallon. It is a 75/25 contribution. We looked at high deductible, low premium plans. There is a new pharmaceutical plan. The School Committee negotiated an OPEB contribution in their agreement. This is to be paid out of

each pay period. The cost to them is \$5.00 per pay period. There is a line item in our budget for OPEB at \$1,000. Being a Regional Vocational School, we get Chapter 71 Funds for Regional Transportation. We also get other funding sources for delayed additional Regional Transportation. We expanded our explanation of our excess and deficiency funds. We are drawing upon \$250,000 to reduce the Towns' assessments. This budget has a 3.5% increase, which is the largest that I have asked for in previous years. Millbury pays the 7<sup>th</sup> highest per pupil assessment. We are also in our 12<sup>th</sup> year of a 20 year debt. We have never come back to ask the towns for an additional amount, even when the State decreased our Chapter 70 Funds. We also understood that if our funds were reduced, then the Towns' funds were also decreased. We reach out to businesses for contributions. Each of the businesses usually give us \$3500. We give them advertisements on our work vehicles. We also compete in SkillsUSA. The students won almost 100 medals. In my 24 years, I have not had a problem with the Towns agreeing to our budget.

Jen O'Connell: What would happen if Millbury came back with a different number?

Dr. Fitzpatrick: That would be a "no" vote.

Jen O'Connell: So, if we don't get 9 towns to vote it down, you would still get what you asked for?

Dr. Fitzpatrick: At least 2/3 of the Towns would have to vote it down. We have never had that amount of Towns vote it down.

Jen O'Connell: Do you charge a transportation fee?

Dr. Fitzpatrick: We ask for a \$30 fee, but it is not for transportation. It is for vocational skills.

Jen O'Connell: What is the percentage for Special Ed?

Dr. Fitzpatrick: It is about 11%. Most IEP's decrease at our school. The highest Special Ed amounts happen in the early grades.

Jen O'Connell: What percentage is for free/reduced lunch?

Dr. Fitzpatrick: It is probably about the same as the Town. I am not sure what the actual percentage is.

Jen O'Connell: What is the highest GPA you accept?

Chet Hanratty: Our acceptance is not dependent on GPA. There is a scorecard that we go by.

Dr. Fitzpatrick: Attendance is a key factor and behavior is another factor. Another factor is the recommendation of the school counselor.

Dr. Fitzpatrick and Chet Hanratty left at 8:00 p.m.

Elizabeth Valero, Library Director, along with the Library Trustees were in to discuss their budget at 8:00 p.m.

Jen O'Connell: In the past, with the Town Manager, we have met with the large departments to discuss their budget. We never really dug into the Library or the Senior Center. This year we have had several questions about these budgets. One of the questions was the rational of a full time Children's Librarian.

Elizabeth Valero: We have our new Children's Librarian here with us. Her name is Ann Delaire. We are always busy. We have computers for everyone to use. We have many events at the Library. Most of them are children's events. We have been asking for a Children's Librarian for several years. Story time has improved since she started. She has also set up a scavenger hunt. We have needed this person for a while. I feel like I haven't done enough. I have been trying to do two jobs and have felt like I haven't been able to do what I was hired to do. I would like it if we could set up a story time for Saturdays.

Ann Delaire: I started a tally sheet for when people come in, which includes the times and what people are looking for. The programs have increased.

Jen O'Connell: What age groups do you handle during the day?

Ann Delaire: I handle mostly toddlers.

Jen O'Connell: What about after school?

Ann Delaire: Between 3-5 pm, we are trying a Lego club. This was a trial by error club. Once they realized what was there, they started building. I think it will take off.

Jen O'Connell: What does the DPW do for your facility? Who does the lawn?

Elizabeth Valero: The Parks Department does the lawn.

Dave Cofske: There were several questions about the elevators and the inspections.

Elizabeth Valero: We only have one elevator. Inspections are done once a year.

Jen O'Connell: Is the Verizon charge for the phone in the elevator?

Elizabeth Valero: Yes, it is.

Albert Kupcinkas: It seems like a large number to clean the gutters.

Elizabeth Valero: Part of the problem is that the leaves keep clogging the gutters. We would like to get something to prevent this. We had them cleaned out twice last year. We have had a lot of problems with the gutters above the Children's Library door.

Dave Cofske: Could we have covers put on the gutters to prevent this?

Elizabeth Valero: The gutter in front needs to be fixed. Water froze in it this past year.

Dave Cofske: There are a lot of advantages to putting the covers on.

Elizabeth Valero: The drain by the Children's Library doesn't work correctly. Water goes back into the building, causing mold. The DPW cleared it out, but it only lasts for a short period of time.

Jen O'Connell: How old is the HVAC system?

Elizabeth Valero: It is 18 years old.

Jen O'Connell: Do you have it on a capital plan to replace it?

Elizabeth Valero: It should be on there. I put it in.

Jen O'Connell: The new Town Manager is working on consolidating some of our supplies.  
Elizabeth Valero: He mentioned getting all the electric into one. We need to have these in our budget, per the State.

Elizabeth Valero and the Library Trustees left at 8:40 p.m.

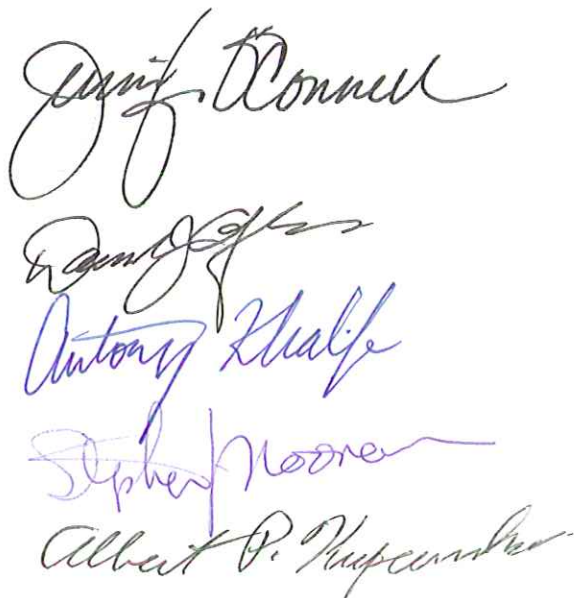
Jen O'Connell: I reached out to Greg Myers about his budget. I explained that the Town Manager recommended a \$150,000 reduction and that if he had a problem with that number, then he should come in. He is going to present this to the School Committee and try to get the budget to the number that the Town Manager has recommended. I think that Dave made a gentlemen's agreement with them to give it back to them if there is any additional money from the levy or the governor's budget.

Jen O'Connell: I will be sitting with Jayne Davolio on Wednesday to get the Warrant ready. We should be able to vote the budget and the Warrant next week. We need to hold on a couple of the budgets until Katie has firm figures. We would need to vote them the following week.

Jen O'Connell: John Bartosiewicz has appointed a new member to the Finance Committee. I do not know who it is. I will find out when Jayne gets the letter from him.

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, April 3, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Motioned by Kupcinkas, seconded by Noonan to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. Unanimous.

  
Jen O'Connell  
Elizabeth Valero  
Anthony Khalife  
Stephen Noonan  
Albert P. Kupcinkas