

FINANCE COMMITTEE  
Minutes

Date: April 26, 2018

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Present: Kennedy, Kuphal, O'Connell, Khalife, Kupcinkas

Absent: Cofske, Noonan

Meeting called to order at 6:45 p.m.

Dave Marciello, Town Manager and Andrew Vanni, Finance Director were in at 6:30 p.m.

Gary Nelson, Sewer Commissioner was in at 6:30 p.m.

Kaye Peltier, Council on Aging was in at 6:30 p.m.

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Discussion was held concerning the School Department Budget numbers.

Jen O'Connell: The School Committee is looking to increase their budget on the Town Meeting floor with the additional Chapter 70 Funds. I spoke to Senator Moore and he indicated that the Chapter 70 is a solid number.

Dave Marciello: They are only looking at a portion of the revenue number.

Jen O'Connell: they are looking to change their budget on the floor.

Dave Marciello: The State Aid is a total of many categories. The revenues have not necessarily increased. They are above the Net School Spending per student. The Net School spending is \$10,000 per student. The Town of Millbury School Department is at \$15,000 per student. In order to increase their budget on the Town Meeting floor, we would have to decrease another department, take from Free Cash, or take from the Stabilization Fund.

Chris Kennedy: Their budget is above the Chapter 70 amount?

Dave Marciello: Yes, it is. It is historically higher than the Chapter 70 amount.

Chris Kennedy: We agreed on a dollar amount. If we get additional money from the State, it doesn't automatically go to the School.

Dave Marciello: I took the Governor's number for the State Aid. I have stated before that I would share any additional money that I receive. I cannot build a number a week before the Town Meeting.

Chris Kennedy: We have a budget. We voted on a budget. If, after the Town Meeting, additional money comes up, we can share it. I feel that the numbers that we voted on should stay.

Jen O'Connell: We would need a Special Town Meeting to use the additional money?

Dave Marciello: Yes, we would. We should know what the actual number is before June 30. We are voting the budget on May 1. More than likely we will have a Special town Meeting in October.

Chris Kennedy: How do you decide who gets what?

Dave Marciello: We will figure it out when we get the final figures.

Chris Kennedy: There needs to be a fair process in dividing the money. We have already exceeded the Chapter 70 money that is coming in. It shouldn't just go to the School. This should be on a "needs" basis.

I am not against giving the School Department money if they need it. Why wouldn't we wait until we have concrete numbers instead of changing the budget just before Town Meeting?

Jen O'Connell: They want to start spending the money now.

Andrew Vanni: They may also want it in case we do not have a Special Town Meeting.

Kevin Kuphal: This would also cut out our opinion and the opinion of the Board of Selectmen.

Jen O'Connell: What is the Chapter 70 is the only amount that increases? It would all go to the Schools.

Dave Marciello: It does not all go to the Schools. If the Chapter 70 goes up and other parts of the State Aid go down, they will not get all of it. If they want all of the Chapter 70 funds then they don't get the \$21 Million from the Town. Chapter 70 is only one category in the State Aid. I cannot walk out of Town Meeting with an unbalanced budget. It is against the State Constitution.

Chris Kennedy: So, the State Revenue is based on projections?

Dave Marciello: Yes, it is.

Chris Kennedy: Why can't you change the projection, if we know the Chapter 70 is increasing?

Dave Marciello: I could, but if it comes in lower, it will not balance. Then I must call for a special Town Meeting and would have to make cuts in the budget. This would include laying off personnel.

Chris Kennedy: We could re-coup the amount in other ways. You keep saying that we would have to lay off people.

Dave Marciello: If it comes from the Town side, it means layoffs.

Chris Kennedy: I still have to say that we voted a number for the budget and I feel that we shouldn't change that number until we have concrete numbers from the State.

Albert Kupcinkas: I agree with Chris.

Dave Marciello: We will have actual numbers around June 15. They can start spending accordingly on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Kupcinkas to support an amendment to increase the School Department budget by \$120,000 on the Town Meeting floor. There was no one in favor. Vote was unanimous to defeat the motion.

Andrew Vanni: The \$120,000 wouldn't be just theirs. They would only get 70% of that figure.

Dave Marciello: I would like to thank the Board for their position on this matter.

Kaye Peltier: Chapter 70 funds cannot be allocated to anyone but the School?

Dave Marciello: We must give them that amount or more to meet the Net School Spending. They are getting that.

Kaye Peltier: If Chapter 70 comes in higher and other amounts come in lower, could the increase go to the other departments?

Dave Marciello: The State Aid goes in one pot. The allocation of the money is up to the Town, since we are over the Net School Spending.

Motioned by Kupcinkas, seconded by Kennedy to accept the minutes of April 9, 2018 as written. Unanimous.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the High School Auditorium, prior to Town Meeting.

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Kupcinskis to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. Unanimous.

*Jeff O'Connell*  
*Steph Noon*  
*Albert P. Kupcinskis*  
*[Signature]*  
*Anthony Khalik*  
*[Signature]*