

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK

14 MAR 26 AM 8:43

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

Date: March 18, 2014

Present: O'Connor, Kupcinkas, Hebert, Girard, Bartosiewicz, O'Connell

Absent: None

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

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Kupcinkas to open the public hearing at 7:03 p.m. Unanimous.

Bill Borowski: I just wanted to let you know that the School Department is looking forward to meeting with you next week and that we appreciate all the hard work you do.

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by O'Connell to close the public hearing at 7:04 p.m. Unanimous.

Fire Chief, David Rudge, and the Fire Engineers were in to discuss the Fire Department Budget at 7:04 p.m.

Michael O'Connor: Your budget is straight forward every year. I would like to discuss the debt exclusion for the SCBA's.

David Rudge: We have been applying for a grant to replace the SCBA's for the past 3-1/2-4 years. These breathing apparatus' give us 20-25 minutes of air at a time. They are 15 years old. The company that makes them is on the 2013 version now. We are having problems getting parts for them. Unfortunately we haven't gotten the grant because the Town's finances are managed too well.

Michael O'Connor: How many sets are we talking about?

David Rudge: This would give us 45 sets. We need to make sure that our people are protected.

Michael O'Connor: When will you know about the grant?

David Rudge: They say we should know in the spring.

Michael O'Connor: If we went and bought them and then were approved for the grant, what would happen?

Bob Spain: We would use the grant before we borrow the money. We also put extra money in the budget for repairs to vehicles. We hope to find a Town Mechanic soon.

Dan Girard: What happens to the old SCBA's?

David Rudge: We may be able to sell some of the parts, but we won't get much for them.

David Rudge and the Fire Engineers left at 7:15 p.m.

Michael O'Connor: The final budget should be available a week from next Tuesday. I hope to have the Warrant by the end of the week.

Michael O'Connor went over the proposed warrant articles.

Michael O'Connor: I took some extra time going over the Blackstone Valley budget. Chet and I have e-mailed. He has, as before, asked if we needed him to come in to discuss anything. They have 1100 students now. They want to expand to 1300. He also gave us the debt schedule and there will be no payment made until 2017. Millbury's cost for the addition, per year, comes out to about \$14,000 per year. I, myself, do not feel the need to meet with him. I have heard from a few people that they feel that Blackstone Valley Tech only takes the cream of the crop. I have spoken to some other people, whose children are enrolled there and have average grades.

Bill Borowski: I feel that 100% of the people that apply to Blackstone Valley Tech should have a chance to be enrolled there. I wouldn't hold the budget hostage. I heard that one of the new vocational programs could be a bonus to the Town. If the program gets in, we won't have to send students to Norfolk Agriculture School.

Michael O'Connor went over his analysis of the town's budget over the past few years.

Michael O'Connor: I wanted to let everyone know that any amount over the State's Net School Spending amount is 100% paid for by the taxpayer. Sutton is 5.7% over their Net School Spending. Blackstone Valley Tech is just under 5% above their Net School Spending. We are at the levy limit and people have been mentioning overrides.

Bill Borowski: I agree that there is a 60/40 split when it comes to the Town versus the School in respect to the budget. What I don't agree on is automatically taking 60% of the brunt of a reduction in the budget. We would need to have a meeting to discuss it. It shouldn't be an automatic thing.

Motioned by Kupcinkas, seconded by Hebert to accept the minutes of March 15, 2014 as written. Unanimous.

Michael O'Connor: We will work on the Warrant next week and then the Budget the following week.

Motioned by Girard, seconded by Hebert to adjourn at 8:40 p.m. Unanimous.

M. O'Connor
A. Kupcinkas
John Barty

Jennifer Donnell
David
Hebert