

FINANCE COMMITTEE  
Minutes

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MILLBURY, MASS

Date: March 18, 2013

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Present: O'Connor, Kupcinkas, Hebert, Gauthier, Bartosiewicz

Absent: Girard

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

Motioned by Hebert, seconded by Kupcinkas to open the Finance Committee Public Hearing in accordance with Section 6-7: Action on the Budget, of the Millbury Charter at 7:00 p.m. Unanimous.

There were no members of the public present for the Public Hearing.

Motioned by Kupcinkas, seconded by Gauthier to close the Public Hearing at 7:01 p.m. Unanimous.

Motioned by Kupcinkas, seconded by Gauthier to accept the minutes of March 9, 2013 as submitted. Unanimous.

Motioned by Kupcinkas, seconded by Hebert to pay the Holden Landmark the amount of \$40.00 for posting of the Public Hearing, from account number 01-131-5780-0000. Unanimous.

Michael O'Connor handed out a copy of the Blackstone Valley and Millbury School Department budgets for review.

Michael O'Connor: We have a budget from the Town Manager that is technically in budget. It was handled differently this year. We haven't had to handle the budget this way in the past. I went through the School budget and I had several questions. The overview explains adding a new teacher. It does not mention any other new positions. In the Special Ed Office, there seems to be an increase in clerical help of \$16,000. There is no explanation in the overview. The Principal at Elmwood and Shaw has an increase of 3%. There is a 4% increase in teacher salaries. The ESL and SPED salaries are up 8% and 6%. The SPED Contracted Services is up from \$28,000 to \$34,000. The Instructor of Technology is up from \$30,000 to \$130,000. This does not include the other Special Article for Technology of \$175,000. The SPED Psychologists is up considerably. The Nurse Salaries is up 25%. Grants were given for energy savings. There is no increase in the electricity at any of the schools. There should be some reflection of savings.

#### Blackstone Valley Budget

Michael O'Connor: The Blackstone Valley School Committee recently voted to bond \$2.9Million for an addition. This was done at their last meeting. They have \$48,843 for capital. The detail has always been

in the body of the budget. Their School Committee voted to have a debt exclusion article put on the Warrant. Next year's payment will be \$641.00.

Michael O'Connor: I spoke to the Town Manager about any changes to Warrant Articles. They would have to bear his name in addition to the School Department if he changes anything. The Town Manager is the only person who can submit articles after the Warrant Submission Cutoff Date passes.

Michael O'Connor handed out and went over an analysis of Proposition 2-1/2 Allowable Spending for FY 2013 & 2014.

Michael O'Connor: The Town Manager hasn't formally told the Finance Committee that there are several debt exclusion Articles. The Debt Exclusions will be on the ballot. They need a majority at the ballot and a 2/3 vote at Town Meeting.

Donald Gauthier: I would like to see it put back into the budget and not have this be a debt excluded article.

Steven Hebert: This sets a bad precedent. Other departments will think they can do this if the School Department can do this.

Michael O'Connor: This is not what debt excluded articles are supposed to be for.

A copy of proposed articles for the Town Meeting Warrant were handed out.

Michael O'Connor: The Selectmen have to approve the ballot questions by 5:00 p.m. on March 25, 2013, per the Town Clerk. If they are not approved by that time, they will not appear on the ballot.

Calendar of Meeting:

Michael O'Connor: Dan is available next week and the week after. He has conflicts for the other weeks.

Steven Hebert: I will be here next week.

Don Gauthier: I will be here next week, but will be away the following week.

Michael O'Connor: I will tell Bob that we need a preliminary warrant by Friday, March 29. We will vote the budget on March 25th and the Warrant on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Motioned by Gauthier, seconded by Kupcinkas to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Unanimous.

*M. O'Connor*  
*Albert D. Kupcinkas*  
*Steven Hebert*  
*Donald J. Gauthier*  
*John Barry*