

Finance Committee Meeting

April 5, 2017 7:30 PM EST
Veterans Memorial Building, Room 229
900 Main Street
Millis, MA 02054

In Attendance:

Peter Jurmain, Chairman
Susan Vecchi, Vice Chairman
Craig Schultze, Clerk
Tayana Antin
Peter Berube
James Bullion
Jodie Garzon
Jerry Nunnaley
Doug Riley
Michael Guzinski, Town Administrator
Timothy Bonfatti, Compass Project Management
Steven Catalano, School Committee
Wayne Klocko, Elementary School Building Committee
Denise Gibbons, School Committee

Peter Jurmain called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM

Discussion and Recommendation: Elementary School Building Committee Project:

The ESBC anticipates a 33% increase in utilities for the new building. Solar panel provisions were included in the design but will not be used initially. The electrical and mechanical designs are not yet finalized. Their hope is to receive grants to fund solar panels in the future. The building is designed to accommodate a fluctuation in enrollment by 10 – 20%. The building is also designed for expansion should an enormous increase in enrollment occur. Moving the 5th grade classes into the elementary school will alleviate space issues in the Middle/High School.

The committee discussed the project and noted the following:

- The ESBC provided a great amount of detail in presenting the project to the community.
- The ESBC exhibited the need for a new school and provided sufficient information outlining the conditions of the current school.
- The current building is not meeting the needs of the students
- The new building will be handicap accessible and will have a fire suppression system.
- The current building's repairs would cost the same as replacing the building. The town's priorities are funding Police, Fire, Schools and Road Improvements.
- The project would provide adequate facilities for students and teachers to continue their outstanding performance and provide a safe environment.
- It is a good investment the town should make.
- Children are the future; the current building does not offer growth and potential.
- The town needs to say goodbye to the current building; it is beyond its useful life.
- The ESBC will endeavor to control costs and stay within budget.
- The updated FAQ is an excellent source in providing residents with valuable information to make an educated decision when voting for this project.

Susan Vecchi made a motion to recommend approval of the project; Craig Schultze seconded. Vote: 9/0 motion carries unanimously.

School Computer Lease:

Mike Guzinski: In speaking with Town Counsel to clarify the discussion last week, it was determined that under G.L. C.30B, Sec.12 the new lease agreement is considered a borrowing and needs Town Meeting approval. The Municipal Modernization Act effective July 1, 2016, specifies that lease purchase agreements are subject to a 2/3 vote at Town Meeting. All actions the town took prior to July 1, 2016 were not a violation. After year #1 the remaining years are rolled into the other lease article and require a simple majority vote at Town Meeting.

Operating Budget and Revenue Review:

The preliminary amount available for FY18 is:

State Aid:	\$ 6,235,337.00
Local Receipt:	\$ 2,089,062.55
Transfer in from Sewer Enterprise Fund:	\$ 173,719.15
Transfer in from Water Enterprise Fund:	\$ 227,872.03
Free Cash:	\$ 799,003.00
Other Available Funds:	\$ 503,050.14
Levy:	<u>\$20,958,302.45</u>
Total:	<u>\$30,986,346.32</u>

The committee noted a substantial increase to the salaries and expenses line items for Police and Fire and would like clarification if these amounts include above level staffing. Chief Soffayer is requesting a School Resource Officer which is required by the state. The School Salaries amount was in fact level funded.

The committee requested the Finance Director ensure the Operating Budget presented does not include any additional staffing or expenses requests.

Warrant Article Review:

The committee noted that the request to fund ClearGov.com was included in the Data Processing Warrant Article. Mike Guzinski reassured the committee this will be revised to reflect (2) separate articles.

Local Road Improvements: The committee would like to see a ballot question for approximately \$200,000.00 - \$300,000.00 to fund local road improvements. This could be a debt exclusion for one year.

Mike Guzinski: There are plans to develop a Road Improvement Project to include more than Chapter 90 funds; the plan should be in place for the Fall Town Meeting.

Stormwater Management is a mandate and must be funded.

The committee would like to see more than just 5% of the Operating Budget in the Stabilization Fund.

The committee would like additional information on the school's request for Back Up Storage Servers in the amount of \$45,000.00.

The Board of Selectmen are meeting with department heads on April 19, 2017 to review their Form #7 & #8s and will make their recommendations on April 24, 2017. The committee members are concerned with the position these late date recommendations make on their preparedness to make their own recommendations to the citizens.

Old Business/ New Business:

The town's Energy Manager, Robert Weiss, provided a Value of Energy Management Memo to the committee for their review. The committee inquired if funding the \$42,836.00 included benefits.

Minutes Approval:

Susan Vecchi made a motion to recommend approval of the March 29, 2017 Meeting Minutes as written; Jodie Garzon seconded. Vote: 9/0, motion carries.

Adjourn:

Susan Vecchi made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:39 PM; Doug Riley seconded. Vote 9/0 motion carries unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Deirdre Gilmore