

Finance Committee Meeting

January 11, 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
Jodie Garzon
Jerry Nunnaley
Doug Riley
Suzanne Kennedy, Town Administrator
Barbara Thissell, Board of Health
Karen D'Angelo, Public Nurse

Peter Jurmain called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM

Request to Increase Revolving Fund Expenditures – Board of Health:

The request is to increase the Medical Services and Vaccinations Revolving Fund expenditure limit for FY17 from \$6,000.00 per year to \$8,500.00 per year in accordance with MGL Chapter 44 Section 53 E1/2. The fund is used to purchase flu vaccines and to finance the sharps disposal services. Rising costs have resulted in the need to increase the fund. The state does not provide as much funding for these items. A request to increase the fund for FY18 will be made at the Annual Spring Town Meeting.

Susan Vecchi made a motion to recommend increasing the expenditure limit for Medical Services and Vaccinations Revolving Fund from \$6,000.00 per year to \$8,500.00 per year; Craig Schultze seconded. Vote: 8/0 motion carries unanimously.

Future Financial Requirements:

The committee put together a list of items they would like to see discussed to get a clear picture of the financial needs of the town:

- Full debt schedule, at least through 2022
- Major capital expenditures anticipated in the next few years
 - Fire engines
 - Ambulances
 - Heavy equipment
 - Large trucks
- Major maintenance issues
 - Roads
 - Bridges & culverts
 - Buildings
 - Pumping stations
 - Sewage system upgrades
 - Water system upgrades
- Field repairs, upgrades
- School repairs & replacement
- Personnel costs
 - Additional personnel requirements including rationale for hiring and expected duties
 - Overhead costs for personnel
 - Other personnel issues
 - Impact on not adding additional staff
- State mandated expenditures
 - Charles River cleanup
 - Storm water cleanup (really part of above)
- Implications to our cost of borrowing
 - OPEB
 - Stabilization

Any major software/IT & telephone upgrades
Town Building Maintenance

The committee recognized a number of items that would ultimately increase taxes, specifically the replacement of the Clyde Brown School. A sizable cost to replace the school, \$50 - \$60 million, will have an impact on residents. Although partial reimbursement from of the state is expected to be 40% the town needs to look for opportunities to offset some of the financial burdens placed on residents.

Future revenue is expected from the sale of water to Exelon, the Glen project as well as the assisted living facility. The town needs to accept increased taxes or choose to be open minded to economic development.

The committee would also like to present to the residents more detailed information of what items are included in their taxes and how their vote at Town Meeting will affect their tax bill.

The committee discussed the personnel costs to operate the town. Many departments request additional staff every budget cycle. They recognized the town has grown and there is a price in providing services.

Town Financial Plan:

The Finance Committee, Board of Selectmen and School Committee are meeting on Saturday, January 14, 2017 at 10:00 AM at the Police Station's Training Room to discuss the process to implement a Financial Plan for the town.

Spring Meeting Schedule:

The committee intends to meet every other week leading up to the Spring Annual Town Meeting but not during February or April School Vacation.

FY18 Budget Presentations:

The committee is requesting all Department Budgets be submitted to them at least one week prior to presentation.

Old Business/ New Business:

Craig Schultze: The Permanent Building Committee voted in favor to request approval for a Special Town Meeting from the Board of Selectmen the week of April 24, 2017. The vote was not unanimous.

A Special Town Meeting will be discussed at a later date.

The committee has requested a School Committee member attend their next meeting on January 25, 2017.

Suzanne Kennedy: The Wells #5 & 6 Feasibility Study should be finished later this week.

Minutes Approval:

Susan Vecchi made a motion to recommend approval of the December 20, 2016 Meeting Minutes as written; Craig Schultze seconded. Vote: 6/0 (2) in abstention, motion carries.

Adjourn:

Susan Vecchi made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 PM; Jodie Garzon seconded. Vote 8/0 motion carries unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Deirdre Gilmore