

Finance Committee
North Reading Town Hall, Room 5
Wednesday, February 18, 2015

Present: Ms. Hurlbut, Mr. Pulver, Mr. Haggerty, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Veneziano and Mr. Koppelman

Absent: Mr. Kelliher, Mr. Duffy and Mr. Wolpin

Guests: Ms Pavao

Chair, brought the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Budget Discussions

Board of Appeals: Mr. Johnson said this is a small budget and is level funded. Mr. Haggerty asked about fees received. Ms. Pavao said the fees are shown on the revenue sheet. Ms. Pavao went over the Revenue Plan. The Hillview Enterprise was explained as well as the ALS Ambulance Service and its revenue. Health care expenses were discussed. Mr. Koppelman suggested that it might be beneficial to North Reading to group together with surrounding towns to go up against the insurance companies. Mr. Koppelman was encouraged to speak with Mr. Gilleberto, the town's health care representative.

Elder Services: Mr. Johnson said he hasn't had a chance to speak with Mary Prenney, the director. The budget is \$57,000 for expenses and other charges. Ms. Pavao said repairs on the van is expected to be low. She also said that Mystic Valley Services provides a lot of services for Elder Services.

Town Clerk: Mr. Johnson explained that this budget covers records and elections. He said the voting machines will have to be adjusted and there are printing costs.

Veterans Services: Mr. Johnson said last year's budget was under and the year prior, the Finance Committee gave several Reserve Fund Transfers. He said this upcoming budget year maybe a little higher but it should still stay within budget. The recipients in need of services changes every year, which makes it hard to budget for. Mr. Johnson said he feels the budget is a little "soft". Last budget year they had 28 recipients and this year 34. Mr. Haggerty said he feels reimbursements should be directly charged to the Veterans Budget. Ms. Pavao said if the town did that, the School could say they want all their Chapter 70 money. Ms. Pavao said \$153,000 has been spent through February. Mr. Johnson said he would like to hold off a month or two before voting on this budget.

Code Enforcement: Mr. Johnson said this is part of the Building Inspector's budget. He has proposed an increase in auto allowance. Mr. Johnson said he receives a monthly auto stipend,

but he is no longer receiving emergency mileage. Ms. Pavao said the town is working on a vehicle policy, similar to the cellphone policy. Mr. Pulver asked if there is a permitting module within MUNIS available. Ms. Pavao said there is and that her and the Building Inspector will be researching a new software to be utilized. The Administrator will be implementing new permitting software, whether it be MUNIS or another system that can work with MUNIS.

The next meeting, which is a joint BOS/FinCom meeting, is scheduled for Saturday, February 28th at 8 am.

Mr. Veneziano moved to adjourn at 9:40 pm, seconded by Mr. Koppelman, and voted unanimously in favor.

Approved

Date