



## **APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, March 5, 2015  
Selectmen's Meeting Room  
7:30 pm

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Present: Chairman, Elaine Kelly  
Janice Hight  
Dan McInnis  
Rick Nieber  
Tony Poteete  
Bob D'Amico

Also present: June Hubbard-Ward, Finance Director  
John Coderre, Town Administrator  
Ernest Houle, Superintendent, Assabet Valley Technical High School  
Kristopher Luoto, Director of Business Operations

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The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Ms. Kelly.

#### **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Nieber moved approval of the February 28, 2015 minutes, Ms. Hight seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

#### **PRESENTATION: ASSABET VALLEY TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL**

Mr. Houle was introduced to the Committee as the new Superintendent of the Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School. He and Mr. Luoto presented the budget to the Committee. Assabet is a vocational school composed of the member communities of Berlin, Hudson, Marlborough, Maynard, Northborough, Southborough and Westborough. Northborough's assessment is based upon the number of students from Town attending the school. The total FY2016 budget is \$19,045,000 which is a \$645,000 or 3.5% increase.

A \$62.4 million building renovation project was previously approved by all of the member communities. The Massachusetts School Building Authority voted to fund 53.48% of the project. Construction began in the summer of 2013 and is approximately 75% complete. Northborough's share of the debt assessment is \$15,006 in FY2016. The debt assessment is expected to peak in FY2017 at \$166,934.

As of October 1, 2014, 58 Northborough students attend Assabet Valley, which represents 7.81% of the FY2016 Assabet budget, or an operating assessment of \$878,397. This is an enrollment increase of 3 from the 55 Northborough students that attended Assabet Valley last year. The total FY2016 assessment, including the \$15,006 in debt service is \$893,403.

#### **PRESENTATION: POLICE DEPARTMENT – MARK LEAHY, CHIEF OF POLICE**

Chief Mark Leahy presented his FY2016 budget. Overall, the FY2016 Police Department Budget is increasing \$89,431, or 3.71%. The personnel increase of \$114,869 includes the contractual wage

adjustment of 2%, plus step increases and educational incentives for new hires. The budget also still carries the cost of an injured officer's salary, which is required by law. Offsetting the personnel line increase is a \$25,438 reduction in expenses, primarily due to the one-time purchase of Tasers in FY2015.

#### **NEXT MEETING DATE AND COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE**

The Committee meets next on Thursday, March 12, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMITTEE**

##### Legislative Priorities

The Town Administrator reviewed the Town's Legislative Priorities letter that was sent to the Governor and the Legislative Delegation. The Northborough Legislators will all be in attendance at the March 9, 2015 Selectmen's meeting and Appropriation Committee members are invited to attend.

##### State Aid Update

Mr. Coderre reported that Governor's office submitted a budget on March 4, 2015. At first blush, the Town may receive a slight increase in State Aid; however the House and Senate have yet to weigh in and it is unlikely that any final decision will be made prior to Town Meeting. The current Town budget model assumes level funding. Any additional state aid received following the Town Meeting budget vote can only be used to reduce the local tax impact.

##### Annual Town Meeting

The Town Administrator distributed a draft summary of the Town Meeting warrant which will take place the week of April 27, 2015. The draft includes all the FY2016 operating budgets and capital projects under consideration.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Nieber moved to adjourn; Ms. Hight seconded; motion was unanimous.  
8:52 pm – adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

June Hubbard Ward, Finance Director

##### Documents used during meeting:

1. February 28, 2015 Meeting Minutes
2. Assabet Valley Budget Presentation
3. Police Department Budget
4. MMA Budget Update dated March 4, 2015
5. Legislative Priorities
6. Annual Town Meeting Warrant Summary

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