



APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 23, 2017

Selectmen's Meeting Room

7:00 pm

Present: Elaine Kelly, Chair.
Bob D'Amico
George Brenckle
Janice Hight
Rick Nieber
Tony Poteete

Also present: John Coderre, Town Administrator
June Hubbard-Ward, Finance Director

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Mr. D'Amico moved the Committee vote to approve the March 9, 2017 meeting minutes, Ms. Hight seconded the motion. Mr. Brenckle abstained as he was not on the Committee at that time. Minutes approved as submitted.

PRESENTATION: JUNE HUBBARD-WARD FINANCE DIRECTOR FINANCE DEPARTMENT BUDGET, DEBT SERVICE AND HEALTH INSURANCE

Following a review of the Finance Department's FY2017 accomplishments, Ms. Hubbard-Ward informed the Committee that there are no significant changes in FY2018. Overall, the department's FY2018 budget increases \$21,067 or 2.84% primarily due to general wage increases of 2% for union and non-union employees.

Finance Director June Hubbard-Ward reviewed the Debt Budget. Overall, FY2018 debt service will decline by \$75,050 to \$2,959,078.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

Update regarding FY2018 Health Insurance Renewals

Mr. Coderre informed the Committee that the FY2018 health insurance budget request of \$5.52 million represents a total increase of \$424,844 or 8.3% from the amount budgeted last year. Unfortunately, the actual FY2018 Health Insurance budget increase at this time appears to be closer to 11-12%. He indicated that the FY2018 Budget that will be presented at the Joint Public Hearing with the Board of Selectmen on March 27th assumes approximately \$200,000 in savings due to plan design changes to employee health insurance benefits. Those plan design changes are currently under negotiation with all Northborough Town and School unions. Should those negotiations be unsuccessful, it will be necessary to reduce the existing General Government Budget and Northborough K-8 School budgets by a comparable amount.

Update regarding FY2018 Health Insurance Renewals Cont. . .

Mr. Coderre added that he is cautiously optimistic that the employee groups will work together to find an acceptable solution. So far, the Insurance Advisory Committee (IAC) has met three times and is scheduled to meet again for the purpose of making recommendations on potential changes. The goal is to have something negotiated with most bargaining units prior to Town Meeting.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Next meeting dates are: March 27th – Joint Public Hearing with the Board of Selectmen to hear the FY2018 Proposed Budget; and April 6th – to discuss the Committee report and recommendations for Town Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Hight moved to adjourn; Mr. Nieber seconded the motion. Motion to adjourn was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John W. Coderre

John Coderre, Town Administrator

Documents used during meeting:

March 23, 2017 Agenda

March 9, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Finance Department Budget

Undistributed Expense Budget