

# *DRAFT*

*FINANCE COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, February 16, 2016  
Swampscott, MA 01907*

*Called to Order: A meeting of the Swampscott Finance Committee was held at the Swampscott Town Hall, 22 Monument Avenue, Swampscott, Mass at 7:00P.M.*

*Attendance: Chairman, Linso van der Burg, Vice Chair, Marzie Galazka and Members, Joan Hilario, William Jones, Cinder McNerney, Jill Sullivan, and Polly Mary Titcomb.*

*Tim Dorsey was part of the Finance Meeting using the remote participation program. Member Tim Dorsey was heard on speaker phone for a portion of the scheduled meeting.*

*Also present was Resident Maryellen Fletcher, Chairman of the Board of Selectman, Naomi Dreeben, Selectman Matthew Strauss, Thomas Younger, Town Administrator and Dan Eccles, Chairman of the Capital Improvements Committee.*

*Open Discussion / Town Budget.*

*Member William Jones inquired about the new full custodian position as opposed to the part time current custodian. Full Time custodian will be to support the Library and Town Hall.*

*Members inquired on when the budget book would be ready, Mr. Younger stated it is being worked on and should be ready shortly.*

*Free cash should be certified in 2-3 days per Mr. Younger.*

*Member William Jones inquired how the free cash goes up, Mr. Younger replied through the Assessing Department going after new growth in the Town. unpaid taxes and higher building fees.*

*Mr. Younger spoke on the Governor's promise of the Cherry Street going up by 4% and Governor Baker supportive of Charter Schools. Assessment has gone up.*

*Member Jill Sullivan suggested keeping the levy number down, bottom line might be the same.*

*Member Linso van der Burg thinks the tax levy could be more flexible for the next year.*

*Resident Maryellen Fletcher asked why the Recreation Directors salary is not being paid out of revolving account and why this salary is not in the budget. Mr. Younger responded that the Recreation Director's Salary, Council on Aging Director, Library and the Health is paid out of the Revolving Account.*

*Mr. Younger spoke on the new Community Events in the Recreation Budget which is to add more funding for new events to the Town in the future.*

*Budget / Personnel Financial Increase.*

*Member Marzie Galazka questioned the Town Planner salary and why it is so high. Member Marzie Galazka asked about where the extra funding for this increase came from. Member Marzie Galazka asked if this increase affects the morale of other employees. Member Marzie Galazka questioned the salary and stated she has worked with many Town Planners that do not make that much of a salary.*

*Member Jill Sullivan asked why this increase was not brought to the Finance Committee and if the increase is retroactive- Mr. Younger, Town Administrator felt it was a decision he was comfortable making and that the increase was not retroactive. Member Jill Sullivan commented she had received calls regarding the increase to the Town Planner's position. Member Jill Sullivan suggested in the future that type of increase should not be allowed to be done without first being brought to the Finance Committee attention.*

*Mr. Thomas Younger, Town Administrator was asked if he was aware prior to offering more of a salary to keep the Town Planner if he knew what was offered by another community. Mr. Younger replied he did not know what the salary was that was offered. Mr. Younger commented he felt it was his choice and felt it was worth the increase to keep the current Town Planner that has many projects being worked on in Town. Mr. Younger informed the Finance Committee he had spoken to the Board of Selectman prior to the increase.*

*Chairman of the Capital Improvement Committee updated the Board of Capital Improvement request to date.*

- *Police Department –total request in the amount of \$105K for parking ticket units, Radio upgrades, 2 motorcycles, new speed / message Board.*
- *DPW Department – water main replacement / MWRA Loan Back How-Dump Truck, Salt storage, Stacy Brook, Building Maintenance-access to the roof at the Fish House.*
- *School Department- \$75K to hire consultant, visioning support planning, High School fans for the Gym, Hadley playground repaving , redesign traffic and parking at the Middle School.*
- *Swampscott Public Library roof repair, new restroom & paint*
- *Planning Department – replace streetlights with new LED lights.*
- *Fire Department- Rescue equipment, storage building and Fire Station expansion.*

*Member Galazka asked about Stacy Brook.*

*Adjournment:*

*The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Member McNerney and Member Mary Polly Sitcom at 9:00P.M.*

*By Attest:*

*Maureen Shultz,  
Finance Secretary*

