

*FINANCE COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 22, 2016*

Attendance: *Chairman, Marzie Galazka , Vice Chair , Tim Dorsey, Members, Cinder McNerney, William Jones, MaryEllen Fletcher, Mary Titcomb, Jill G. Sullivan, Gail Rosenberg .*

Dave Castellarin, Town Accountant in attendance.

FY17 Budget Projections were discussed:

Dave Castellarin, Town Accountant spoke on the following:

- *The \$85K in circuit breaker funding from last fiscal year was effectively "lost", since the school did not spend it during the fiscal year.*
- *Budget sheets will be provided to the Board in two weeks.*
- *Department Budgets are due in two weeks.*
- *All Union Contracts are up for negotiations.*
- *Member Mary Ellen Fletcher asked whether there would be a conflict of interest having Dave involved in Police Contract negotiations since he is employed as a Reserve Officer in the Town of Topsfield.*
- *Chairman Marzie Galazka commented that the Police Department's overtime stills seems on the high side.*
- *Member Mary Ellen Fletcher inquired what the cost is to send someone through a Police Academy.*
- *Dave Castellarin stated if six officers retire there would be a cost savings to the Town in the amount \$140k. New hired officers will not get paid by the Quinn Bill.*
- *Member Cinder McNerney asked about hiring an outside service to help with contracts.*
- *Dave Castellarin noted that all Town employees not under a union contract would be getting a 0 % increase in the FY18 budget.*
- *Retirement up by \$400K.*
- *Since it is difficult to estimate Vehicle Excise, the FY18 estimate is conservative.*
- *Nahant tuition to be level funded.*
- *The budget allows for a 10% increase in Health Insurance.*
- *New Flood Insurance Policies: There is an issue with the address on record for the Treatment Plant and the Police Station. The Town is working on getting that cleared up.*
- *Member Jill Sullivan requested that Dave Castellarin, Town Accountant bring to the next meeting the recap.*
- *Member Jill Sullivan asked Dave Castellarin for an update on the tax rate.*
- *Member Cinder McNerney asked for the budget book.*
- *Member Mary Ellen Fletcher asked when the Town receives the Health Insurance Invoice per Dave Castellarin, Town Accountant it is received once monthly.*
- *Chairman Marzie Galazka asked Dave Castellarin about special education finances.*
- *Member Jill Sullivan thinks the increase in Health Insurance is a conservative number.*

Boards updates & School Budget Discussion:

The school department is looking for new money in the amount of \$750K.

Town side facilities is \$300K. - Facilities Manager Michael Scola requesting \$46K.

Member Mary Ellen Fletcher asked what was going on with a new school. Dave Castellarin and Member Jill Sullivan said there was nothing at this time.

Member Tim Dorsey spoke about sending a letter to the schools based on the frustration over the last three years on contracts discussions, zero dollar amounts, payroll and salary matters. Member Tim Dorsey presented to the Board a draft letter to the School Department. Member

Dave Castellarin does not agree with sending a specified figure of money in a letter to the School Department and believes the letter with a figure will guarantee them the money.

Member MaryEllen Fletcher asked Chairman Marzie Galazka to ask Evan Katz, School Business Administrator, for a detailed line item of the School Departments budget and then forward to the Finance Members.

The Board voted on a motion by member Jill Sullivan to send a letter included with changes and names of the School Committee, seconded by Member Mary Ellen Fletcher -All members in favor.

Town Meeting update:

Member Gail Rosenberg commented that not recommending Article 4 would not preclude future grants from CZM, as stated by Pete Kane, Town Planner.

Chairman Update:

Chairman Marzie Galazka informed the members that the Town Administrator Search Committee has come up with three finalist's names which they will be forwarding to the Board of Selectman.

Adjournment:

The Board voted unanimously on a motion by Finance Member Mary Titcomb to adjourn meeting at 8:55 PM seconded by Finance Member Cinder McNerney

Attest:

*Maureen Shultz
Administrative Assistant*