

Swampscott Finance Committee
Monday, March 20 7PM
Swampscott Town Hall

Attending: Marzie Galazka (Chair), Tim Dorsey (Vice-Chair), Joan Hilario, William Jones, Cinder McNerney, Mary Ellen Fletcher, Polly Titcomb, Gail Rosenberg.

7:03 Meeting called to order.

Chairman Galazka reports that she has reached out to Town Administrator Sean Fitzgerald to provide us with actual expenditures for the year to date as well as comparisons with past budgets.

Ms. Galazka reported that the Finance Committee letter needs to be completed by April 6. This is a discrepancy from the date reported in the budget book of April 21. Ms. Galazka will go back to Mr. Fitzgerald to question that deadline. The Finance Committee discussed what kind of information we would like to have provided for our deliberations. Most importantly, the finance committee wants the '16 audit that will show three years of actuals to budget.

The finance committee had a discussion about some big picture elements of the town finances. Concerns raised were: the amount of revenues over the past few years relative to expenditures, planned uses for free cash, major school department items, the level of taxation and the split of health care costs between the town and employees.

The finance committee discussed how it wants to go about deliberations. The finance committee needs to do due diligence with various departments regarding their budgets. Finance Committee is especially interested in hearing about various new warrant articles we heard about for the first time last week.

The finance committee will be meeting again on Wednesday. At that time the Finance Committee will be identifying discrepancies and formulating questions for various department heads. The finance committee is interested in having a representative from the town attend a meeting very soon to discuss the major elements of this budget. We will also invite the School Department to discuss their budget.

Finance Committee questions on the budget:

- 1) Finance Committee will remove the \$2569 for our secretary.
- 2) What is "other compensation" in the Town Administrator's Budget
- 3) Do we expend the extent of the retainer each year for the Law Department
- 4) Why was workman's comp. actual #393K in '16 and the budget is \$615 for '17 and '18?
- 5) The actual '16 expenditure on the personnel department was \$85,686. Why is the request \$95,313

Motion to adjourn made by Cinder McNerney, seconded by Joan Hilario. At 8:46