

Westborough Advisory Finance Committee

Minutes of Meeting No. 11, FY2017

Thursday, January 12, 2017

Members Present: Hank Rauch, Chair, Gary Wells, Beth Blumberg, Jim Driscoll, Paul Huegel, Sean Keogh, Andrew Bradley, Phyllis Jaffee Absent: Tom Blakeley

At 7:01 p.m. Mr. Rauch called the meeting to order in Memorial Hall of the Town Hall.

Attachments:

AFC Report to the Town for CY 2016 will be posted when available @
http://www.town.westborough.ma.us/Public_Documents/WestboroughMA_TownReports/

Approval of Past Minutes

There were no minutes for approval.

Approval of AFC CY 2016 Report. Rauch stated that all town departments need to submit an annual report. He has put a draft out for review and it needs to be turned in tomorrow.

Motion to approve- Voted: 8-0-0

Budget & Town Meeting Agenda Review with Town Manager, Jim Malloy

All documents that have been provided by Mr. Malloy are in the Drop Box.

Mr. Malloy reviewed FY 2018 Draft Budget highlights and Fiscal management policies.

Health insurance costs are up 8.5 % (\$815,700) but this is significantly less than it would have been if the Town had not negotiated health insurance plan design changes again this year. The issue driving health insurance now is related to the increase in subscribers:

- 34 more school staff subscribing between FY16-17
- 2 less town staff subscribing between FY16-17
- 16 more retirees subscribing between FY16-17
- 11.0 increase in retiree health insurance rates effective 1/1/17

Fire Department funding up \$310,542 due to funding full year centralized dispatch center.

Snow/ice budget expenses account has increased (\$58,000) to reflect a 10 year trend.

School budget is up 4.9 % (\$2,305,793) but, budget is balanced with no need to use reserves.

1.4% increase in overall taxes and 6.7 % increase in average single family tax rate.

State Aid estimated to increase approximately \$195,000. Local receipts estimated to increase approximately \$70,000.

General Fund – 4.2% increase (\$3,552,401)

Water Fund – 0.5% increase

Capital Budget - \$872,578 without Fire Rescue Vehicle and \$1,347,578 with Fire Rescue Vehicle.

With the total General Fund budget of \$88,028,017 the recommended Capital Budget is exactly 1.0% and 1.5% respectively, in keeping with the Fiscal Management Policies.

There are a number of large projects looming on the horizon. Issue is how to fund these large capital items. Discussion on the impact of the selling of Westborough State Hospital.

Board of Selectmen and Town Manager's budget is going down this year from \$466,000. The reason that it is going down is that the Personnel Board was eliminated last year. That budget was combined with the Board of Selectman and Town Manager's budget.

The Insurance budget is the second largest budget next to the School Committee. Mr. Bradley asked if there could be a comparison study done with other towns. The Assistant Town Manager, Ms. Williams does a lot of work on the insurance budget and Mr. Malloy will have her put something together within the next week.

Ms. Blumberg inquired about Citizen's Petitions. Seven/Eleven would like to have a Malt & Wine License. They have submitted a Citizens Petition to get a Liquor License. Mr. Arnold, Town Moderator needs to be contacted along with the AFC.

Review Future Draft Agendas

Mr. Rauch has posted the next several Agendas on the Drop Box. The next meeting #12 is scheduled for Tuesday, January 17, 2017 and the School Committee will be present. The following meeting #13 is scheduled for Monday, January 23, 2017 and the Police and Fire Department will be present. Following will be meeting#14, January 30, 2017 and the DPW will be present.

Liaison Reports - Comments and Concerns – Committee Members

Review Liaison if you have a department that you would like to bring in for budget review there needs to be a Warrant Article.

Mr. Wells has stepped down as Vice-Chair.

Mr. Rauch made a motion to appoint Ms. Blumberg as Vice-Chair. Voted: 8-0-0.

Mr. Rauch extended a "Thank You" to Mr. Wells for his dedicated service over the years.

Adjournment

Mr. Rauch motioned to Adjourn @ 8:48pm. Voted: 8-0-0

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Thornton
Administrative Assistant

