

Finance Committee

Minutes
March 22, 2016

Call meeting to order: 6:39 p.m.

Members: Mary Braney, Chair, Paul McLaughlin, Vice Chair, Nancy Herholz, Clerk, Chris Bowen, Nancy Tame & Robbin Joyce.
Adam Gaudette, Town Administrator; Gary Woodbury, BoS

Guests: Sargent Michael Befford, Police Dept.; Robert Parsons, Fire Chief; Gary Suter, Comptroller, Kevin Hayes, Chairman, School committee, SEBRSD

Minutes: March 8, 2016 meeting

- **Motion:** Paul McLaughlin
- **Second:** Robbin Joyce
- **Approve:** Unanimous

Correspondence:

- Letter sent to finance committee members from Norfolk Agricultural High School

Liaison Reports:

- **Financial Management Planning Committee:** Paul McLaughlin and Adam Gaudette reported on the third and final Public Hearing held March 21, 2016 6:00 p.m. in the Great Hall of the Town Hall. The BoS and FMPC again presented the wide-ranging town wide road(s) improvement project; Focus seemed to be on an override of 34 million, as a go for all or nothing approach. Subject has been turned over to the Board of Selectman for further discussion and decision.

Explanation, questions, comments and discussion; override will be decided by voters at the town election.

- **Capital Planning Improvement Committee:** Nancy Herholz and Adam Gaudette reported that the committee met for a final time, March 8, 2016; rankings and recommendations were submitted to Adam Gaudette, Town Administrator, who then reviewed and prepared the information to be presented to the BoS.

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- **SEBRSC:** Mary Braney stated that on March 15, 2016, she attended the school committee budget hearing which adjourned and was followed by a special meeting to report on the Superintendent's evaluation; previously conducted by a subcommittee of the school committee between September and December of 2015

DPHS Building Committee: Mary Braney stated that the committee has not met.

Building Property & Reuse Committee: Adam Gaudette reported that the Committee has not met but a meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 23, 2016

Landfill Solar Development Advisory Committee: Committee has not met but is scheduled to meet Wednesday, March 23, 2016.

Town Administrator:

- **FY2017 Budget:** Adam Gaudette will present and discuss budget at Fincom's next meeting March 29, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.
- **Any other:** None

Discussion, questions & comments.

Department Budget Presentation:

Fire Dept.: Chief Robert Parsons & Adam Gaudette presented and explained the FY2017 budget with details of salaries & wages, general expenses. There were no changes in the budget except for salaries per Personnel By-Law.

Discussion, questions & comments.

Police Dept.: Adam Gaudette and Sargent Michael Befford presented and explained the FY2017 budget with details of salaries & wages and explanation to line items such as overtime compensation and general expenses. Clarification was given to the reason for moving the amount for the new police cruiser from the police dept. "Capital Outlay" part of the budget to the Capital Improvement request list.

Discussion, questions & comments.

SEBRSD: Gary Suter, Comptroller & Kevin Hayes, School Committee Chairman presented and explained in detail the actual and

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preliminary FY2017 School's budget of \$25,080,289.00. Mr. Hayes prefaced the presentation with a concise history of the prior condition of the district and the rationale for the path taken and being taken in order to put SEBRSD back on track.

Mr. Suter and Mr. Hayes, in a combined effort, gave further explanation to available and anticipated receipts/revenue, anticipated FY2017 E & D (the school's equivalent to the Town's "free cash"), School Choice balance, Supplemental Reserve Fund, Net School Spending (NSS) and the amount of funds reserved to cover the FY2016 NSS shortfall, expenses above the NSS budget and the Minimum Local Contribution [(MLC) which is levied by the State]. An account of the "Summary of Major Changes," a budget increase of \$1,554,990.00, which is to fund new programs, add additional funds to ongoing expenses and reinstate programs in order to improve the educational system and the district's accreditation.

Also highlighted was the payoff of the 10 year loan, in three years, to the State; this debt was formed by a flawed financial plan shaped by former superintendent (2012-2013), in which the million plus deficit was incurred; therefore, creating the need to request the loan from the State.

Discussion, questions & comments.

Any other: Mary Braney reiterated the "Mass Memories Roadshow" being held Sunday, April 3rd from 10 to 3 at the Town Hall. Those wishing to volunteer should contact Mary Baker-Wood at the library.

***Finance Committee Public hearing is scheduled for April 12, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjourn: 8:40 p.m.

Motion: Paul McLaughlin

Second: Chris Bowen

Approve: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy E. Hartz

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Dates to note:

Finance Committee meeting schedule March - May, 2016

Mar. 29, 2016: Finance Committee (Special): presentations from CoA - Pam Woodbury; Town Clerk - Laura Torti; Richard Sugden Library - Mary Baker-Wood, Director ; Bay Path RVS - John LaFleche, Superintendent, Dean Iacobucci - Business Manager

Apr. 12, 2016: Finance Committee (Special): Public Hearing on FY2017 Budget (*Place ad in New Leader) and Vote Recommendations on Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Apr. 13, 2016: FinCom Drop Dead to have the Warrant book to printer (must have in hand 4 days before ATM)

May 5, 2016: Annual Town Meeting

May 10, 2016: Town Elections