

# Finance Committee

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Minutes  
March 29, 2016

**Call meeting to order:** 6:06 p.m.

**Members:** Mary Braney, Chair, Paul McLaughlin, Vice Chair, Nancy Herholz, Clerk, Bill Wall, Nancy Tame, Chris Bowen (6:10) & Robbin Joyce (6:40).

Adam Gaudette, Town Administrator; Tony Pepe, BoS

**Guests:** Pamela Woodbury, Director for Council on Aging; Laura Torti, Town Clerk; Mary Baker-Wood, Director of Richard Sugden Library, Lynn Dobson, Library Trustee;

John LaFleche, Superintendent, Dean Iacobucci, Business Manager, Robert Zukowski & Kenneth Wheeler, School Committee for Bay Path Regional Vocation High School respectively.

**Minutes:** March 22, 2016 meeting

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

**Department Budget Presentation:**

- **Council on Aging** Pamela Woodbury, Director  
Pamela handed out a "Comparative Community" study for FY2016 of each town with special note to number of seniors per community, hours that the centers are open and salary paid to the director. Pamela also reported that with the move to Maple Street School the center has realized increases in attendance & volunteers and has added lunches two days a week. Pamela also made special note that all programs offered were funded with grants; programs are not funded at all with town funds.
- **Town Clerk** Laura Torti  
Laura Torti noted that the FY2017 budget being presented was very similar to FY16, mentioning that there was little to no change in salaries & wages and general expenses. Expenses routinely fluctuate with when there are special town meetings or more than normal need for Poll workers and other personnel necessary for such events.

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- Richard Sugden Library Mary Baker-Wood, Director, Lynn Dobson Library Trustee  
Mary Baker-Wood presented her FY17 budget stating that the FY17 budget was level-funded with a slight increase of 2%, for salaries & wages (per personnel by-law). The library has been working with the minimum amount of employees and hours, which do not meet minimum requirement to be a part of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC); the library has been issued a waiver in order to retain this resource.

The library receives grants for the majority of the programs offered and if not for volunteer assistance, it would be very difficult to provide the services that are currently in place.

- Bay Path Regional Vocational High School  
John LaFleche, Superintendent, Dean Iacobucci, Business Manager, Robert Zukowski & Kenneth Wheeler School Committee Members

Mr.'s. LaFleche & Iacobucci handed out "power-point" booklet and a detailed FY17 proposed Bay Path budget in which they presented, explained and discussed Spencer's part of the Bay Path Regional H. S. FY2017 total budget of \$20,841,414.00 (Spencer's MLC assessment is \$9,863,178.00); with additional highlight on Chapter 70 funding, the Minimum Local Contribution and how it is assessed, Net School Spending with the increase to each section (mandated by the State). This increase is 8% over FY2016 in which part of this is \$20.00 per student increase in Chapter 70 funding. Mr.'s LaFleche and Iacobucci concur that even though it was early in the budget process, it appeared that the proposed funding is going to be inadequate.

Mr. Iacobucci also highlighted School Choice Assessment, Chapter 71 Busing Aid, Spencer's final payment for "Capital Buy-In" of \$63,910.00, the use of \$84,702.00 in "Excess & Deficiency" (E&D) to continue funding OPEB Liability, the use of \$50,000.00 from E & D to fund OPEB liability and finally the assessed \$30,750.00 "Sewer Betterment Fee."

Attention was given to bay Path's building project and debt service being "on-time & on-budget" with no projected

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deficits; Spencer's portion of the debt annually is \$140,445.00.

### Correspondence

- None

### Liaison Reports

- **Financial Management Planning Committee:** Paul McLaughlin deferred to Adam Gaudette who reported, with regard to the four (4) successful public hearing on the Comprehensive Roads Project, that it was then sent to the BoS to decide on which amount, 10, 19 or 34 million; after deliberation the figure of 19 million was chosen to put before the annual town meeting and would ultimately be voted on at the town election.

Tony Pepe further explained the reason for choosing 19 million over 10 or 34. The figure of 10 million would not get the job done and selectmen felt that 34 million was not an amount that would get a majority (go ahead) vote by the town's residents.

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

- **Capital Planning Improvement Committee:** Adam Gaudette reported that recommendation & scoring from CIPC was in the hands of the BoS for further consideration.
- **SEBRSC:** Mary Braney stated the district's meeting was being held March 29, 2016 (same night as FinCom).

**DPHS Building Committee:** Mary Braney stated that there was no business to report.

**Building Property & Reuse Committee:** Chris Bowen reported that there had been an introductory meeting, March 23, 2016, to reviewing the buildings and the various needs thereof.

**Landfill Solar Development Advisory Committee:** Robbin Joyce reported the committee met, March 23, 2016 and discussed the

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need to look to consultants for a feasibility study and to listen to advice gathered from the study.

### **Town Administrator:**

- FY2017 Budget: Adam Gaudette stated that there was little to no change with FY2017 budget. Preliminary list of Warrant Articles were presented and briefly discussed.
- Any other: None

Discussion, questions & comments

**Any other:** Mary Braney mentioned and briefly discussed the subject of even though there are fewer students in the schools, the budgets and Chapter 70 funds continue to increase while enrollment decreases. Mary researched the Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (*DESE*) website and found the State calculations with regard to district funding; anyone interested in more information go to <http://www.doe.mass.edu/>. The general consensus was that the State continues to increase spending while the funding decreases.

**Adjourn:** 8:45 p.m.

Motion: Chris Bowen

Second: Paul McLaughlin

Approve: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

*Nancy E. Hibdz*

### **Dates to note:**

**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