

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2018**

A meeting of the Finance Committee (FC) was held on Tuesday, October 23, 2018 in the Municipal Center. Ms. Holmes called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM.

**ATTENDANCE:**

PRESENT: Pamela Holmes (Chair), Howard D'Amico (Vice Chair), Carol Gogolinski, Lynne Mussulli, Dick Vanden Berg

ABSENT: Michael Hutmak, Heather Morin

NON-VOTING: Matt Wojcik (Town Administrator), Jeanne Lovett (Finance Director)

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FINAL WARRANT OF SPECIAL TOWN  
MEETING (STM) ARTICLES**

Article 1 contains all the budget adjustments being requested for STM, including changes to the Fire Ambulance Wages. A discussion was held.

Article 8: Mr. Wojcik explained that the Town's consultant will go to the market on 11/13/18 and obtain a price for years 4 and 5. Based on that price, the consultant will make a recommendation regarding whether or not the Town should enter into a contract for those years.

Mr. Wojcik explained some of the projects planned for the Green Energy grant money of approximately \$145,000, namely the street light LED replacement project and the library heat/cooling units.

Mr. D'Amico made a motion to recommend the motion for Article 1 to Town Meeting as written: to raise and appropriate \$165,599 and transfer \$48,350 from the Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriation account. Ms. Gogolinski seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-5.

Mr. D'Amico made a motion to recommend the motion for Article 2 to Town Meeting as written. Ms. Gogolinski seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-5.

Mr. D'Amico made a motion to recommend the motion for Article 3 to Town Meeting as written. Ms. Gogolinski seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-5.

Ms. Lovett stated that Free Cash was recently certified at \$1,321,622. Mr. D'Amico made a motion to recommend the motion for Article 4 to Town Meeting as written. Ms. Gogolinski seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-5.

Ms. Gogolinski made a motion to recommend the motion for Article 5 to Town Meeting as written. Mr. Vanden Berg seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-4, Mr. D'Amico abstained. Mr. D'Amico asked if the Town has explored whether or not Blackstone Valley Tech (BVT) is in breach of their contract regarding who is admitted. Mr. Wojcik replied that he is optimistic that the admissions trend for this year will sway other towns in the district towards Douglas' opinion to require an amendment that clarifies admissions discipline. He stated that this topic was thoroughly engaged in a meeting between the superintendent of BVT and managers of seven of the participating towns. A discussion was held.

Mr. D'Amico made a motion to recommend the motion for Article 6 to Town Meeting as written. Mr. Vanden Berg seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-5.

Mr. Wojcik stated that he hopes to get back to Charter in the next day or two. The new IT consultant discovered that the Town was paying for things that aren't used and paying too much for things that are insufficient. The consultant has reorganized the agreement with Charter such that the Town will run their own network and increase the speed and bandwidth. Mr. D'Amico made a motion to recommend the motion for Article 7 to Town Meeting as written. Ms. Gogolinski seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-5.

Mr. D'Amico made a motion to recommend the motion for Article 8 to Town Meeting as written. Ms. Mussulli seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-5.

Mr. Wojcik stated that the lease is with Town Counsel. Ms. Gogolinski made a motion to defer the recommendation for the motion for Article 9 until 6:30 PM, the night of Town Meeting. Mr. Vanden Berg seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-4, Mr. D'Amico abstained.

Mr. D'Amico made a motion to recommend the motion for Article 10 to Town Meeting as written. Mr. Vanden Berg seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-5.

Ms. Gogolinski made a motion to recommend the motion for Article 11 to Town Meeting as written. There was no second. Mr. Wojcik stated that he feels it is wise to review the history of the evolution of the cannabis referendum and the resulting statute and amendments. Moratoriums are no longer an option. A discussion was held.

Mr. D'Amico made a motion to not recommend the motion for Article 11 to Town Meeting as written. There was no second. Mr. Vanden Berg made a motion that the Finance Committee make no recommendation to Town Meeting regarding Article 11. Ms. Gogolinski seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-1, Abstained-4.

Mr. D'Amico made a motion that the Finance Committee take no position on Article 11. Ms. Holmes seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-5.

Mr. D'Amico made a motion to recommend the motion for Article 12 to Town Meeting as written. Mr. Vanden Berg seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-5.

Mr. D'Amico made a motion to postpone the remainder of the agenda until the next meeting. Ms. Gogolinski seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-5.

## **2. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S FISCAL 2020 REPORTS**

There was no discussion.

## **3. CHAPTER 3 FINANCE HANDBOOK *THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS***

There was no discussion.

## **4. RESERVE FUND TRANSFERS/ VOUCHERS**

There was no discussion.

## **5. MEETING MINUTES: OCTOBER 9, 2018**

Approval of the October 9, 2018 Finance Committee meeting minutes was deferred to the next meeting.

## **6. OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

**New Business:** Mr. Wojcik stated that the Firefighter Union contract was ratified by the Union at 2:00 this afternoon, effective 7/1/18. Provisions are being put in place

for the growth of the full-time coverage in the Fire Dept. He feels that this contract is well-balanced. A change in the way the Town deals with rank is the most important and most expensive change. The Town needs to gradually increase the gap between a lieutenant and a full-time paramedic, so instead of a \$0.50 bonus, the increase will be tied to the step 5 level paramedic salary. The same COLA as exists for Town employees has been put in place in this contract. Mr. Wojcik described the firefighter's schedule.

The Town wants to encourage training and, if the budget and the Chief allows it, training can be reimbursed up to a capped amount. There is \$3,300 in an account for physical fitness on a reimbursement basis.

Douglas has adopted the cancer presumption and a rebuttable presumption against contagious, infectious disease. Mr. Wojcik explained the issues with the Fiscal Impact Statements. The gap to the base year grows each year as steps, COLAs, compensations, etc. are awarded, which is the total change contemplated by the impact. That amount is \$123,836 over three years. A discussion was held.

**Old Business:** Ms. Holmes reminded the members regarding attending the ATFC meeting on 11/3/18. Ms. Lovett stated that the attendance fee can be reimbursed.

## 7. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Gogolinski made a motion at 9:11 PM to adjourn the Finance Committee meeting. Mr. D'Amico seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-5.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Wright  
Recording Secretary