

**TOWN OF BERKLEY
FINANCE COMMITTEE**

MONDAY MARCH 25, 2019

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Chairman Joe Freitas, Secretary Michele, Nancy Gajoli, Melinda Paine-Dupont.

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm by Chairman Joe Freitas.

Chairman Joe Freitas called for a motion to accept the minutes of March 11, 2019. Motion was made and seconded to accept finance committee minutes as written. A call for a vote was made by Mr. Freitas and the committee unanimously approve the minutes.

Chairman Joe Freitas called for a motion to accept the minutes of March 18, 2019. Motion was made and seconded to accept finance committee minutes with minor changes. A call for a vote was made by Mr. Freitas and the committee unanimously approve the minutes.

Finance Committee Member, Melinda Paine-Dupont requested a few minutes to provide the committee members with documentation from the State Ethics showing her ability to support a candidate running for a Berkley Municipal position. Hand out was provided.

Other topics of discussion included the request from Chairman Joe Freitas to review department budgets under the direction of the Selectmen. Our next scheduled meeting will be with town administrator Alan Coutinho who will present the budgets for those departments.

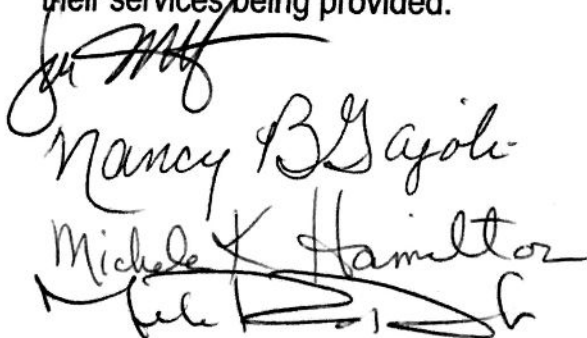
At 6:20 pm, Chairman Joe Freitas requested a 5 minute break for the purpose of moving our meeting to another conference room to meet and discuss with the K-8 representatives.

Chairman Joe Freitas invited Superintendent Tom Lynch of K-8 to give the Finance Committee some insight on the requested budget for fiscal year 2020.

- There is a \$418,000 increase requested this year.

Budget comparisons from FY 2019/FY 2020

- Transportation, 2 bids, the lowest was Blooms, with an increase of \$21,200.
- This includes more drivers and the cost of running the buses.
- Special needs at a 73% outside placement of SPED students. One at \$100,000 and the remaining at \$60,000 to \$70,000.
- Our 6 SPED students primarily attend Reads Collaborative located in Middleboro and South Coast Collaborative in Swansea.
- Swansea rents 4 classrooms from us at a cost of \$90,000 which helps with the cost of their services being provided.


Nancy B. Gajoli
Michele Hamilton
Melinda Paine-Dupont

- DCF helps by paying 50% of the homeless bills. Cost of one child is in the amount of \$37,000 paid through circuit breaker.

Discussion took place regarding changing the Library Aide position and salary. By making this change, they can then request her to function as a teacher, to help those students who need extra help with reading/writing. The cost increase is roughly \$25,000.

Chairman Joe Freitas requested an explanation of the Other (servers/networks) financial lines, one for each school.

- The \$10,000 for each school is set aside for emergency repairs when needed for the servers or networks. It was recommended that the lines be broken out and more specific explaining what the cost was actually for.

The largest increase in payroll this year was the Nurse's salary. The cost is due to contractual/step system.

Received a quote for next years oil bill and it came in at 10 cent cheaper than this year.

Superintendent Tom Lynch indicated that he wanted to increase the enrollment of School Choice for next year. K-1 usually fills up quickly and there is a need for a new computer lease program. Our computers are roughly 12 years old and there is a need for replacements. The lease program, 6 teachers and 2 paraprofessionals are paid out of the School Choice funds.

- We currently have 46 school choice students from Taunton; 34 from Fall River; 10 from New Bedford and a few from Lakeville, Dighton and Somerset.

A brief discussion with Mr. McCarthy regarding the custodial staff and the impact OSHA will have on the department. Mr. McCarthy indicated that there would be a major impact and he has set up some training in April. This will give them the OSHA 10 card. The issue with the lift was introduced and Mr. McCarthy is concerned that this will cause additional issues with OSHA.

The finance committee was interested in the knowing where the schools status was regarding MSBA. Superintendent Mr. Lynch indicated that he was sending a letter of intent first of next week and they were going to include letters of support from the school committee and the Selectmen. (The week of April 1st, 2019).

The feasibility study to be done following letter of intent and if we qualify the state will pay 50% towards the cost of repairs.

Chairman Joe Freitas requested an explanation of the schools position on the monies voted and set aside strictly for the lights. After a brief discussion, the finance committee requested that they move forward on replacing the lights in the community school.

Chairman Joe Freitas asked if there were any more questions or concerns from the committee members and the representatives from the K-8 school system. All indicated that they were all set and Mr. Freitas thanked the Superintendent and other representatives for coming and providing us with the information.

The finance committee spent some time reviewing the information received and decided we want a breakout of instructional line 6 and the school office and tech line. Mr. Freitas will send a letter requesting this information.

Chairman Joe Freitas called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm. A motion was made and seconded. A call for a vote was made by Mr. Freitas and the committee unanimously approve the minutes.


Nancy B. Gajali
Michele K. Hamilton
