

Finance Committee Meeting

Monday, February 8, 2021

Committee Members in Attendance

Per Covid – 19 prodigal, verbal roll call of attendance:

Chairman Joe Freitas, Michele Hamilton, Melinda Paine-Dupont. Via Zoom, Nancy Cajoli.

(Pending Oath, new member, Matthew Chabot)

Chairman Joe Freitas called for a motion to accept the Finance Committee minutes of December 8th, 2020. Motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of as written. A verbal roll call for a roll call vote was made by Chairman Joe Freitas and the committee verbally approved minutes as written.

Review and discussed that the terms of service for the Finance Committee have been updated. Also, the expirations for the online municipal ethics training for members and we are good until the following dates: Joe Freitas, 12/10/2022; Melinda Paine-Dupont, 12/10/21; Michele Hamilton 7/26/2022 and Nancy Gajoli, 01/21/2022. (Matt Chabot waiting to be officially sworn in before we can add him to the list).

Discussed the report received by Superintendent of Schools Thomas J. Lynch regarding inquiries requested by the Finance Committee.

- MSBA Process. Waiting on a site visit at the community school, basically in a holding pattern with the MSBA.
- The Community School lighting project was completed in August of 2020 and under budget.
- Some of the projects on the MSBA S.O.I. of 2019 and 2020 submitted have been complete; however there are several still waiting to be completed.
- We currently have 875 students enrolled in grades K – 8.
- Monetary transfers are recommended to the School Committee by the Superintendent and Mrs. Porter when necessary to balance out accounts. Usually when staff moves from one school to another.
- Too early in the year to predict what the balance of the accounts will be in June.

- Due to the Cares Act and ESSER 1 and 2 Federal Grants, the current budget will not end in deficit. Also, due to Covid-19 fears, veteran teachers retired and were replaced with inexperienced teachers for reduced salaries.

Reviewed and discussed the proposal presented to the School Committee, Finance Committee and Selectman. The proposal came in at a 1.9% increase for the next fiscal year.

Recommended that the committee study the reports/information provided for our upcoming review with the Superintendent and other members who may attend our next meeting of February 23, 2021.

Reviewed and discussed the financial reports from the Town Administrator. This included the FY2022 Preliminary Cherry Sheets; The Town of Berkley Comparison reports. As accounts are updated, replacement sheets will be provided.

Chairman Joe Freitas provided the committee with written documentation related to the virtual MMA Trade Show and Work Shops. Joe walked us through the various workshops he attended, and did an excellent job providing detail that related to the Financial/growth of Town of Berkley.

The committee members received the 2020 Bristol-Plymouth regional Technical School Annual Report.

Chairman Joe Freitas called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 pm. A motion was made and seconded. A call for a verbal vote was made by Chairman Mr. Freitas and the committee unanimously approved by roll call to adjourn.

Secretary, Michele Hamilton,

Clerk/Board Member

Joe Freitas 2/23/2021

Michele Hamilton 2/23/2021

Nancy B. Gajoli 2/23/2021