

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 23, 2015

ATTENDANCE: CHAIRMAN, ED HOAK, NANCY GAJOLI, MICHELE HAMILTON, BRIAN RUA AND DEAN LARABEE, COMMUNITY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL; JEN FRANCISCO, COMMUNITY SCHOOL VICE PRINCIPAL; SARAH COGAR, MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL; KIM HEBERT, ANDREA PORTER, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS; TOM LYNCH, TOWN ACCOUNTANT; KATHY AVILLA, POLICE CHIEF; SCOTT LABONTE, SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER; CRIS GHILARDUCCI, SECRETARY OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMAN; PAUL MODLOWSKI, LIBRARY DIRECTOR; WILLIAM SCHNELLER, LIBRARY TRUSTEES; CARLA LYMAN AND JUNE MOSKAL, SELECTMAN; WENDY COCHRANE, COUNCIL ON AGING, MARY SILVA AND STATE REPRESENTATIVE; KEIKO ORRALL

LOCATION: BERKLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL, LIBRARY

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN, ED HOAK, AT 6:30

This meeting was called to kick off the FY2016 budget season.

REVIEW OF MINUTES: Accepted minutes of January 20, 2015 as written.

OPEN DISCUSSION WITH KEIKO ORRALL REGARDING FY16 BUDGET SEASON: Ed mentioned that at the MMA Conference the new Governor indicated that local aid would be flat in the new year. Keiko mentioned that the new governor understands the importance of local aid, and Governor Baker remains committed to keeping aid flowing to local municipalities. The decision will be made later to switch from MCAS to PARQ. Keiko mentioned that she was working on public safety issues in response to recent shootings. Ed asked about the storm and whether or not there would be additional funds. Scott mentioned that snow and ice removal is roughly \$ 180,000 so far. The blizzard, town wide, cost \$ 65,000. Scott is not optimistic that our county would not qualify for Federal funds. Keiko was asked by Tom if the \$ 5,000 School Choice figure would increase. Keiko said there was a new administration and therefore there was hope. However, progress was slow because committee assignments have not been done yet. Tom was asked by Ed to discuss his presentation to the Chapter 70 Foundation Budget Commission. Tom was asked by the school committee to add the positions that have been eliminated into the preliminary budget. Although, it has not been presented yet, adding positions would create an \$ 800,000 budget increase.

DISCUSSION REGARDING PUBLIC SAFETY ROOF: The public safety building has no insulation in the attic over the police department and our pipes have been freezing. Scott has gotten a quote to spray form insulate the roof and then install a heater. As this is an emergency situation, the committee voted unanimously to provide \$ 4,999.99 from the reserve account and the balance from locations to be determined to cover the cost of insulating the roof. Currently, the best bid is provided by Anchor Insulation and is \$ 11,195.00.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUDGET: Will be presented March 9th.

LIBRARY: Library is deteriorating and is obsolete. Windows are in danger of falling out because of rotted sills. There are staffing issues as the assistant librarian's house burned down. The budget presented included

anticipated increase for contractual obligations. The increase in budget met last year's municipal contribution requirement without a waiver.

COUNCIL ON AGING: Anticipating requesting a budget increase to roughly \$ 7,000.

SELECTMEN'S OFFICE: There is no security window or panic button or secure area in the building. There is no safe.

NEW TOWN HALL: Anticipating a May 1st move in date. The maintenance man will be hired shortly.

BRIAN RUA IS DEPARTING: Moving to Barrington, RI. The committee thanked him for his service and wished him well.

ADJOURNED AT 8:07 PM.

Next meeting is expected to be March 2, 2015 at 6:30 PM.