

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES, MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2017

FINANCE COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JOINT PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING

MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2017

MERRITT CENTER

Present: (BOARD OF SELECTMEN) Chairman Philip Crawford,
Christopher Barrett, Richard Dalton

(FINANCE COMMITTEE) Chairman Jack Dahlstedt,
Christopher Mattia, Rob Look, Stephen Riley,
Gene Covino, Jason Caggiano, A.J. Qualtieri,
Robert Priestley.

Not Present: Tom Kennedy, Kevin Sullivan, Tom Kayola

Guests: Town Administrator Jim Boudreau,
Fire Chief Tetreault, Library Director
Heidi Mercer, Maureen Doherty (Press)

- * Selectman Crawford called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- * Pledge of Allegiance.
- * Selectman Crawford explained the process and format for tonight's meeting.
- * FinCom Chairman Dahlstedt nominated Selectman Crawford to chair the public budget meeting. Christopher Barrett seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously passed.
- * Selectman Crawford invited FinCom Chairman Dahlstedt to review the FY 18 Town Administrator's Budget, dated March 22, 2017, line by line. The public was invited to ask questions or make comments, as they wished.
- * GENERAL GOVERNMENT
- * Lines 1 through 15. No questions or comments.
- * Lines 16 through 25. Mr. Wallace McKenzie requested the Town's boards disseminate information through the town website.

- * Lines 29-47. No questions or comments.
- * PUBLIC SAFETY
- * Lines 48-60. No questions or comments.
- * Line 61-83. Mrs. Patricia Campbell questioned the capacity of school buses and urged the Town to better financially utilize their bus service.
- * Lines 84-91. Mrs. Patricia Campbell requested a bus with three point restraints for the Council on Aging.
- * Mr. Dahlstedt informed Mrs. Campbell that is a capital expenditure.
- * Mrs. Campbell requested more library services aimed at adult programming for the thirty-six percent of older adults without children in the school system.
- * Lines 92-103. No comments or questions.
- * EDUCATION
- * Line 104. Mrs. Patricia Campbell presented general comments concerning the number of administration positions versus instructional positions. She was also concerned on the trend of salary increase percentages over a number of years.
- * Selectman Richard Dalton discussed having a line item in budget for first responders.
- * Mrs. Campbell voiced her concern about the OPEB Fund debt.
- * FinCom Chairman Dahlstedt noted he would be looking for more guidance in what's mandated involving OPEB, and the FinCom is certainly aware the issue needs to be addressed.
- * FinCom Chairman Dahlstedt asked for further questions on the FY 18 Operating Budget.
- * Mrs. Patricia Campbell questioned the timing of salary increases, and requested performance-based increases.
- * Mrs. Patricia Campbell requested that before more work is performed on infrastructure, the Town needs to get a grip on maintenance issues.

- * Mrs. Patricia Campbell suggested new infrastructure should be considered in connection with a new master plan.
- * Mrs. Patricia Campbell requested the Town have more control over the School Department spending by setting a bottom line.
- * Mrs. Patricia Campbell thanked the FinCom for volunteering their time.
- * FinCom Chairman Dahlstedt assured Mrs. Patricia Campbell the FinCom shares her concerns, and is very active in controlling the bottom line.
- * CAPITAL BUDGET
- * Mrs. Patricia Campbell again raised the issue of implementing keypads to replace the voice vote at Town Meeting. She also requested having warrant articles to be displayed for the public to view.
- * Selectman Richard Dalton questioned the availability of supporting documentation pursuant to the School Department's technology budget.
- * FinCom Chairman Dahlstedt stated the level of transparency concerning capital budget requests has increased from department heads year after year in order to aid in forecasting to avoid borrowing.
- * Town Administrator Boudreau discussed the dramatic changes in EMS billing system.
- * BOS Chairman Crawford thanked the FinCom for their efforts.
- * FinCom Chairman Dahlstedt informed the public the FinCom will be voting on the warrant articles in a scheduled FinCom meeting immediately following this public budget hearing.
- * Mr. Wallace McKenzie questioned whether there was any update on whether the Market Street abatement was granted by the Appellate Tax Board and the process by which abatements get disbursed.
- * Town Administrator Boudreau commented there has been no decision made, yet. Selectman Crawford explained the procedure by which disbursements are made.

- * Selectman Christopher Barrett made a motion to adjourn.
FinCom Chairman Jack Dahlstedt seconded the motion. All voted
in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectively submitted by
Debbi Mallett, FinCom secretary