



TOWN HALL | 39 SOUTH STREET | HINSDALE, MA | 01235 | 413-655-2300

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES / January 11, 2018

Members Present: V. Mason, R. Bolduc, S. Galliher, H. Brown, C. Pike, R. Scialabba
Members Absent: E. Peck, Mary Rice. One position remains open.

Public Present: W. Pike, L. Scialabba, R. Graves, Town Admin.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm.

Public Comment (#1): Laurel Scialabba, Select Board Chair noted three subjects of interest:

- the Board opted to take the advice of MIIA and increase the level of medical liability coverage the town carries on Part Time Police Officers and Volunteer Firefighters to \$200K from \$100K. Relatively inexpensive and it provides well deserved coverage while shielding the town with a wider coverage gap.

-the Board was notified that State DCR did not approve the grant for the Plunkett Lake gate valve replacement necessitating that the town find additional sources of funds to pay for the mandatory project.

-Treasurer Diane Sturtevant had indicated two choices for the Board to consider. Borrow \$265K on a ten year loan that would cost \$38K in interest with no option to pay off the balance early or use Stabilization funds. The SB determined that with a \$1.1 million balance Stabilization was the correct choice. Finance Committee was in agreement with this approach.

Ray Bolduc mentioned that he and Town Admin., Bob Graves were disappointed in the Plunkett Lake grant result. Both were working with State Senator Hinds and State Rep. Mark to see if reconsideration was possible in light of the fact that all paperwork had been properly submitted.

Minutes of the December 7th meeting were read and accepted unanimously.

Bob Graves presented a proposed 2018-19 town budget process with critical dates and information deadlines that will coincide with a joint Select Board/Finance Committee review of department requests in a Saturday, March 10, session.

Public Comment (#2): Laurel Scialabba commented that the town is presently considering the installation of a roof mounted solar facility on the fire station and the newer section of the town highway garage. Still are some project vetting steps to complete, but all looks positive. As designed it is anticipated that the array will completely cover the electric bill for these two facilities and provide ample metering credits for application to some other town electric costs. Chairman Scialabba noted that he would be participating via remote access in Feb./Mar.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted: Richard Scialabba, Chairperson