



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

## FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES / March 2, 2017

*Members:*

Mary Rice  
Ray Bolduc  
Shaun Galliher  
access)  
Earl Peck  
Viv Mason  
Justin Gilardi  
Mary Rice

*Absent:*

Bruce Marshall, SB  
Chris Pike

*Other:*

Harvey Drosehn  
Dick Scialabba Chair (by remote access)  
Laurel Scialabba SB Chair (by remote  
access)  
Ryan Aylesworth, Town Admin.  
Bonnie Conner  
John Conner  
Rick Kardasen

The meeting was opened at 7pm by Ray Bolduc, Vice Chair. Dick Scialabba is participating by remote phone access, Laurel Scialabba Select Board is also participating by remote phone access.

Since Select Board member Bruce Marshall failed to attend, the Select Board does not have a quorum and therefore the joint vote to appoint someone to the vacancy on the Finance Committee cannot take place. The joint meeting may have to be re-scheduled to the next regular Select Board meeting on Wednesday, March 22, 2017. It is anticipated that Selectman Marshall will attend their regular meeting, thus giving the Select Board their required quorum. Vice Chair Bolduc asked for any public comment, there was none.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the February 2, 2017 meeting as written. The motion passed by a roll call vote that was unanimous.

The Committee discussed the CBRSD request for 850K for a feasibility study on renovating or building a new High School. Ryan reported that 550K of the 850K is for Architect and design work, 250K for the Project Manager, and 50K for contingency and advertising. The first two years is interest only, which will have a low impact on the taxpayer, the next three years will be a significant increase to 14 or 14 ½%. Some of this money will be rolled over to the actual loan to build a school or renovate the existing building. The district will hold a public meeting on March 23rd (yet to be announced) to explain the project to the people. The district-wide vote is on Saturday April 8, 2017. The results will be tallied by total votes cast, not town by town. John Conner, former School Committee member made us aware that the district has 57 million in unfunded liability that should be addressed. The amount never shows up on any financial spreadsheets and is virtually unknown by the public. This is what funds the teachers' pensions which is substantial. The Auditors have requested that the district start to address this issue, and there is 150K in the budget this year to put toward that liability. The committee, Select Board and public attendees discussed this issue and the 850K project. A motion was made and seconded that "the Finance Committee vote to NOT support this 850K project." The roll call vote was 4 in favor, 2 against. Dick Scialabba said he would write a letter to the district

explaining our concerns about the 57 million and this 850K project. The committee was encouraged to email Dick with points of concerns to help him compose this letter.

Ryan announced that he will be ready to review the budget at the March 22 meeting and the Finance Committee should be ready to vote on it at our April 6th meeting.

Ray Bolduc said he talked to Charlie and all accounts are doing ok. Shaun Galliher questioned the telephone account balance. Ryan explained that there were some billing issues that he is taking care of, and the amount spent is incorrect.

In new business, Chief of Police Sue Rathbun and Officer Kristen Burgess brought forward an unforeseen issue with the Animal Control Officer position. It came to their attention after an issue with a dangerous dog situation, that the ACO must be certified within one year of appointment in order to perform certain duties. This is a fairly new law, and they were unaware of it until this situation occurred. Chief Rathbun also pointed out that there are approximately 400 dogs licensed, with at least double that actually in town. They have had 104 animal calls from July to mid-January. That is a very high number and so many are unlicensed dogs. There is a yearly Academy training course in Boylston MA that begins soon, and ACO Officer Burgess was able to get enrolled in that class. It is a one day a week for 12 weeks. Including tuition, it will be a total of \$3375. for Officer Burgess to attend. She has agreed to remain ACO for the next three years if she is allowed to attend this course. The committee discussed this at length and a motion was made and seconded to "recognize the liability to be funded at a future Finance meeting either by a Reserve Fund Transfer, or an end of the year line item transfer." The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Our next meeting is Wednesday March 22, joint with the Select Board, to review the budget with Ryan and the Select Board and possibly revisit the appointment to the vacancy on the Finance. This will be the regular Select Board Meeting in the Town Hall meeting room. Our next regular meeting is April 6, 2017, at 7pm in the Town Hall Community Room.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 8:02 pm. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary A. Rice, Secretary