



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

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES / Nov. 2, 2017

Members:

Dick Scialabba
Viv Mason
Shaun Galliher
Heather Brown
Chris Pike
Mary Rice

Absent:

Earl Peck
Justin Gilardi

Other:

Harvey Drosehn, Select Board
Susan Rathbun, Chief of Police
Laurel Scialabba, Select Bd Chair
Bob Graves, Town Administrator

The meeting was opened at 7:01pm.

There was no public comment.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the October 12th Finance meeting as written. The motion passed with Ray Bolduc abstaining.

There is no Treasurer or Accountant report for this meeting.

Town Administrator, Bob Graves, has the answers to the questions discussed at the September 7, 2017 meeting as follows:

1. 1. Veteran's Aid – This account has additional person, there will be an article on the SPTM to cover that expense through this year. (\$5,900.00)
2. 2. The Community Center account was incorrect and has been fixed.
3. 3. The Tree Warden will be addressing the list the Arborist compiled in March, addressing the “high risk” trees. This list may possibly be posted on the web site.
4. 4. Canopy clearing will be done by Rene as there is money in his budget to do that.

Chairman Scialabba reported that he wrote a letter to the Assessors asking what can be made available to the town, from the Overlay Surplus account. The Assessors' answer was that there were no funds available at this time. There is currently \$83,038.00 in this account. Shaun Galliher cited the Mass Municipal Modernization Act that requires the Assessors to release back to the town periodically, any funds not expected to be needed. Customarily this is done prior to the ATM which can reduce the amount needed to be raised and appropriated. The Committee intends to pursue this issue with the Assessors.

Regarding the lack of attendance by several elected members of this Committee, Chairman Scialabba sent a letter to one member (attached) and will do the same to the other one. Chairman Scialabba reported that the Open Meeting Law has changed regarding remote participation in meetings. It is now allowed anytime, by any committee. The person calling in cannot be counted toward the quorum of members, however; there are exceptions. Chairman Scialabba reported that there will be a Special Town Meeting on Wednesday November 29, 2017 at 7:00 pm. The Warrant will be posted by November 14, 2017. Laurel

Scialabba, Select Board Chairman, discussed some of the issues that will be on the Warrant, although the Select Board and the Town Administrator have not finalized them. It is expected they will include, but not limited to, the following:

A temporary moratorium on zoning for marijuana dispensaries; transfer to the Veterans account; transfer from sewer 3 surplus for pumps; water loan pre-payment; replacement of Accountant Assistant.

Police Chief Susan Rathbun made a strong presentation to replace the Ford cruiser, citing the many mechanical problems and prognosis for limited longevity of that vehicle.

Ray Bolduc reported that the bids went out to replace the Plunkett Lake gate valve and the bid opening is on November 27th.

Laurel Scialabba reported that the bid package for the Cemetery Gate will be ready for Spring. This Committee will meet again on Monday, November 13, 2017 at 7:30 pm to review and vote on the Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles.

The next regular meeting of this Committee is Thursday, December 7, 2017 at 7pm in the Town Hall Community room.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 8:05pm. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary A. Rice, Secretary