



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

## FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES / March 22, 2018 at 7pm

Town Hall-Community Room - 1st Floor

posted 4/07/2018 at noon

### Members

Shaun Galliher, Vice Chair  
Viv Mason  
Earl Peck  
Mary Rice  
Heather Brown  
Viv Mason

### Absent

Chris Pike

### Other

Dick Scialabba, Chair (by remote access)  
Harvey Drosehn, Select Board  
Susan Rathbun, Chief of Police  
Bob Graves, Town Administrator  
Dave Kokindo

The meeting was opened at 7pm.

There was no public comment.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes for the March 1 and March 15, 2018 meetings as written. The motion passed with a roll call vote, one abstained.

Chief Rathbun was present to go over her budget request, as she was unable to attend the Saturday meeting. She explained that the union is currently in contract negotiations with the Select Board and her budget includes estimated expected increases in wages. The committee discussed officers getting trained and leaving for better pay rates. The Chief said she would like her officers to get a "good and decent salary." She explained that the dynamics of the department have changed from one full-time officer (Chief) plus part-time officers. We now have one full-time Chief and two full-time, plus part-time officers. There also has been an increase of approximately 1000 calls to the department, with 53% more arrests. She feels the voters have recognized and supported these changes in the department.

Chief Rathbun explained the upgrades that have been done in the booking room and she would like to modify the entrance to the office to include a wall and sliding window. She has an estimate of \$4,200 but included \$6,000 in her budget for possible electrical issues with the remodel.

Chief Rathbun was asked about the cruisers, including her own, being seen at locations outside of town. She said the cruisers are in Pittsfield for court hearings and or police related issues and may stop at places en route back to town. This is with her full knowledge and approval and she is confident there is no abuse of that practice. She also considers her own position as being 24/7.

Chief Rathbun said the new cruiser has arrived and that the 2010 Tahoe is not scheduled to be replaced per the Capital Plan, for two (2) more years.

Vice-Chairman Galliher had prepared an excel spreadsheet of the budget requests and the committee agreed to go over every item and flag those that needed more information and or discussion. Some of those accounts include: Infrastructure engineering, Town Hall renovation,

gas and diesel account, Vocational accounts, Old Dalton Road culvert. Vice-Chair Galliher will invite the Assessors to our next meeting to discuss the revaluation issue and their request for funds to remedy it.

Vice-Chair Galliher said the gas and diesel account will overrun soon and may require a Reserve Fund transfer. Also, the cost of the flags needed for the graves, and the Old Dalton Road culvert are issues pending review at our next meeting.

Another way to fund some accounts that run over is with line item transfers at a Town Meeting. This is allowed during the last two months of the fiscal year as long as the Select Board and Finance Committee agree.

Public Comment: Dave Kokindo asked if the town is following the Accountant and Treasurer policy adopted around 2011. He asked specifically about the sidewalk project that cost 74K more than the contract price of 614K. Vice-Chair Galliher pointed out that DEP had signed off on any Chapter 90 monies that may have been used. He and Bob Graves, Town Administrator, stated that they would look into his concerns.

The next meeting of this committee is Thursday, March 29, 2018 at 7pm in the Town Hall Community Room.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 8:48 pm. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted, Mary A. Rice, Secretary