

**Finance Committee
Minutes of March 21, 2016**

Present from the Finance Committee: Chairman Louise Tremblay, Bob Corey, Ed Pitta, Gerald D'Avolio, Joseph DiCarlo and Helen Hamel. Also present: Town Manager, James A. Duggan, Ann Vandal, Assistant Town Manager, Diane Daigle, Accountant and Recording Secretary Samantha Carver. The meeting was held at Town Hall Conference Room 2nd floor, 62 Arlington Street, Dracut, MA.

Absent: Richard Ahern

**Police Department
Chief Kevin Richardson was present**

The Chairman opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Tremblay asked Mr. Duggan to begin the discussion on the budget. Mr. Duggan began by discussing the Police budget and announced that a new officer who had just graduated from the police academy started this week, Officer Quinn. He will be with a field training officer for a period of time before going out on his own. Mr. Duggan stated as you can see there is one officer budgeted in the FY2017 budget. Mr. Duggan went onto discuss his outreach program getting the word out on the override for public safety and making sure the community and other know the facts on the need for the override. Mr. Duggan stated there are many misconceptions in the public and he's hoping to clear those up before the community votes.

Mr. Duggan talked about if the override passes they are looking for six positions in the police and three in the fire. However with Officer Quinn starting now, they would have five positions and try to put the spill over into the public works. The Committee reviewed the police budget and questions were asked on the telephone system, and postage. Ms. Tremblay asked about the RECC and what was happening with that. Mr. Duggan explained that he is still advocating for it and has another meeting set up with State. The Committee asked how many officers the town has currently and Mr. Dugga responded thirty eight but with Officer Quinn it will be thirty nine. The Field Training Officer is with Officer Quinn for ten weeks.

Ms. Tremblay asked if any of the officers were out on medical. Chief Richardson responded from the audience that four were out on 111F with one coming back soon and the other three to be determined.

**Fire Department
Chief David Brouillette was present**

The Committee went through and reviewed the Fire Department's budget. Mr. Duggan announced that the Town just negotiated the fire department's union contract with the union and they will be at the tail end of the first year of a there three year contract. Mr. Duggan complimented the Fire Department on being resourceful when it comes to their budget.

Building Department

Building Inspector Dan McLaughlin was present

The committee reviewed the budget for the Building Department and asked the Town Manager if a vehicles was ever thought of for this department. Mr. Duggan responded that the coordination amongst the inspectors with one vehicle could prove challenging. Currently each inspector puts in for mileage at whatever the State determines for the rate.

Animal Control

Mike Kenyon, Animal Control Officer was present

The Committee reviewed the animal control budget and discussed how Mr. Kenyon was a dispatcher at the police department before coming over as the animal control officer. The Committee asked if the position of dispatcher was filled yet. Mr. Duggan responded that they have posted the position but it has not yet been filled.

Public Works Department

Michael Buxton, Public Works Director was present

The Committee began their review of the budgets under public works. Mr. Duggan stated that the Committee will see that these budgets have been level funded except for contractual obligations. The Committee asked about the fuel the DPW has on site and whether that was put out to bid. Mr. Buxton responded the Town is in a consortium with twenty other towns on the fuel and the Town of Andover runs the program for all twenty towns.

Cemetery Department

Michael Buxton, Public Works Director was present

Mr. Buxton mentioned that the Bailey cemetery will be expanded.

Minutes

Mr. D'Avolio made a motion to approve the minutes of March 14, 2016 as presented. Mr. Pitta seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

Mr. Pitta made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Mr. D'Avolio seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Joseph J. De Carlo

J. Edward Pitta

Louisa Trumbly

Robert J. ...

[Signature]

Ben R. ...
