

**Finance Committee
Minutes of March 9, 2015**

Present for the Finance Committee meeting was: Chairman Louise Tremblay, Helen Hamel, Michele Green, Ed Pitta, Bob Corey, John Zimini and Gerald D'Avolio. Also present were: James A. Duggan, Town Manager, Ann Vandal, Assistant Town Manager/Finance, Town Accountant Linda Wright and Recording Secretary Samantha Carver. The meeting was held at 62 Arlington Street, 2nd Floor conference room.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and referred to the Town Manager James A. Duggan to begin the discussion.

Mr. Duggan stated that Karen Merrill was present and he had a conversation with her about getting together with her, Louise, Attorney Hall and himself to discuss her concerns about the open meeting law complaint filed last year on the Finance Committee. He will be asking his secretary to set up a meeting for this discussion.

Reorganization of the Committee

Ms. Tremblay stated that they needed to reorganize and asked if there were any nominations. Mr. Pitta made a motion to nominate Louise Tremblay as Chairman. Mr. Corey seconded the motion. No other nominations were made. The motion carried unanimously in favor of Louise remaining as Chairman.

Ms. Tremblay asked for nominations for Vice Chair. Mr. Corey nominated Helen Hamel as Vice Chair. Mr. Pitta seconded the motion. No other nominations were made. The motion carried unanimously.

General Government

Mr. Duggan began the discussion on the general government portion of the budget for FY16.

The Committee began its review of Section A which is the overview of the entire budget; Section B is the Town Manager's letter highlighting different areas in the budget and activity throughout the year. Section C is the Revenue section of the budget. Mrs. Ann Vandal discussed the revenues and stated to the Committee she would go over any section in more detail if anyone had a question on it.

Ms. Vandal explained the first section is the taxes collected in the Town, Fees for Regulatory Boards, Business Licensing, and Non-Business Permits.

Ms. Vandal explained that they have received the Governor's numbers for a reduction in State Aid but they are a long way off from receiving the final numbers because it still has to go through the House and Senate.

Ms. Green had a concern about parents sending their kids to the Charter Schools. She stated that in speaking with some parents, the same parents who voted for the override to build the new High School, they are sending their kids to Charter Schools. This costs the Town money and she mentioned that these schools have a cap on how many students can go to them. Her question was what the Town could do to encourage these parents to keep their kids in the school.

Mr. Duggan stated that he and Superintendent Stone have a good working relationship and are in communications regarding the schools on transportation, revenues, and the like.

The review of the budget moved on to the Water and Sewer funding and it was noted that some of these numbers have changed for the Sewer Department due to moving into the same building as the other Town Departments.

It was noted that all the postage was moved out of the individual accounts and into building maintenance for the whole building and computer supplies were moved into the IT Budget.

Mr. Duggan stated to Mr. Pitta who asked about non-discretionary income and stated that he would have something for him at the next meeting.

Ms. Green asked if the Police and Fire Department's payroll were separate in another report. Ms. Vandal stated it was in the Town Report.

Ms. Tremblay questioned how someone would go about getting the union contracts for Police and Fire or other unions.

Mr. Duggan stated they are public record and could be obtained through the Personnel Department. The School unions would have to be requested through the Superintendent's office. He stated that these contracts would not be discussed here at the Finance Committee for it's not the venue for it.

Mr. Pitta asked a question about the Zoning Board of Appeals budget why it was 1/3 of the previous year. Mrs. Vandal responded that it was a function of activity.

Mr. Corey asked a few questions about the Veteran's Affairs Officers replacement. Mr. Duggan stated he was going to try to work something out to share the function with an abutting town for six months if he can get it approved through the State to save some money and then hire a new Veteran's Affairs person.

The Committee discussed the upcoming schedule for the Finance Committee and when they would hold the public hearing on the budget as required.

The date for the public hearing was determined to be April 20, 2015. The Committee discussed voting on all the articles to do with finances before Town Meeting and not hold a meeting the night of Town Meeting.

The next Finance Committee meeting would be March 23, 2015 and the Police and Fire Chief's would be invited in to answer any questions the Committee would have.

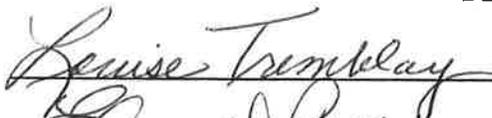
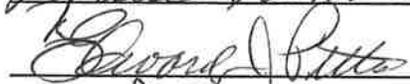
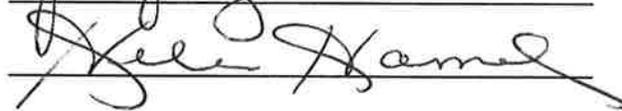
Minutes

Mr. Corey made a motion to approve the minutes of March 2, 2015 as presented. Ms. Hamel seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

Mr. Corey made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. Ms. Hamel seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

	_____
	_____
	_____
	_____