

**Finance Committee  
Minutes of April 6, 2015**

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

The Chairman opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed new member Joseph Herlihy to the Committee.

Mr. Duggan continued the discussion on the budget beginning with the Board of Health. He stated that the Health Director Mr. Tom Bomil will be retiring in July and he is working with Tyngsboro to see if their part time Health Director can give a couple of days to Dracut on a temporary basis to save costs and give him time to find a replacement for the position. He wants to be able to study the needs of the office. Mr. Duggan also mentioned that the part time nurse has resigned to go to a full time position.

Mr. Duggan next discussed the Veterans Agent position whereas this position is required by law to be filled with a full time person due to the population of Dracut. He had a productive conversation with the Secretary of Veteran's Affairs asking if again with the Town of Tyngsboro could piggy back services for a temporary amount of time until January 1, 2016 to save costs but also look for a qualified candidate for this position. Tyngsboro's agent is part time due to its population so could provide us with some hours.

Mr. Duggan discussed the snow deficit at approximately \$840,000 and stated that he looked to his departments to return 5% of their total budget not just what was left in the fiscal year. He stated that this resulted in approximately \$300,000. Mr. Herlihy asked if the State was going to reimburse any of the towns for the snow overage. Mr. Duggan mentioned that the Governor has gone to Washington to try and get some funding for the winter storms we've experienced. He is hoping to get all four storms to be seen as one that way all four storms can get reimbursement at a 75% level.

Mr. Duggan discussed the Council on Aging budget and mentioned that after the former director retired they hired a new Director at the Council on Aging who came from a smaller community and she is doing a great job with little oversight.

Mr. Duggan discussed the Veterans Services/Benefits budget and stated that when they give out funds to Veteran's in need, they are reimbursed from the State with 75% reimbursement of those funds but they don't usually receive those funds back for one year.

The Library budget is pretty much level funded except contractual obligations and an increase in utility costs. The Recreation Department is entering its busiest season with the spring programs beginning. Mr. Duggan discussed the Skateboard Park and how they had formed a committee to really look at the issues here and try to give this park another chance to be successful. He stated

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they looked at the job description for a park monitor and looked at the responsibilities the same as a lifeguard. They are hiring a paid monitor who will enforce the skateboard park rules and monitor the age group of the participants using it. This monitor will be equipped with a Police radio if they encounter any trouble they can call for assistance.

Ms. Vandal continued the discussion on the budget explaining the Debt Service budget and stated this fluctuates due to reduction in short and long term interest.

Ms. Vandal stated that next week they will bring the Capital Plan books to the Committee and noted they were only able to provide about \$70,000 toward capital projects because this fund does not contain much of a balance.

**Minutes**

Mr. Corey made a motion to approve the minutes of March 30, 2015 as presented. Ms. Hamel seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Adjourn**

Mr. Corey made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 p.m. Mr. D'Avolio seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

  
  


\_\_\_\_ Absent: John Zimini \_\_\_\_\_

  


Absent: Ed Pitta \_\_\_\_\_