

**Finance Committee
Minutes of April 27, 2015**

Present for the Finance Committee meeting was: Chairman Louise Tremblay, Helen Hamel, Bob Corey, Gerald D'Avolio, Joseph Herlihy, Ed Pitta and John Zimini. Also present were: James A. Duggan, Town Manager, Linda Wright, Town Accountant and Recording Secretary Samantha Carver. The meeting was held at 62 Arlington Street, 1st Floor conference room.

Ms. Tremblay opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and explained that this meeting was a public hearing to hear comments on the FY2016 Budget for the Town prepared by the Town Manager. She asked that anyone coming to the lectern to comment please state their name and address for the record.

The following audience members made comments on the budget process:

Karen Merrill of 7 Clyde Avenue, Dracut, MA
MaryAnn Blanchette of 165 Lakeshore Drive, Dracut, MA
Joe Espinola of 1 Strawberry Lane, Dracut, MA
Mike Sancardia of 30 Diamond Drive, Dracut, MA
Rich Cowan of 12 Greenlawn Avenue, Dracut MA
Stacy Caron of 200 Varnum Avenue, Dracut, MA

Some of the comments stated by those who came up to speak were on the following subjects:

- Police/Fire Overtime and Holiday Pay
- School Department presentation and lack of questions from the Finance Committee
- A comment was made about trying something different and looking to where the budget deficits are long before the budget is printed and how to anticipate problems for the next year
- Sever cuts in the School Department budget and whether other budgets are looked at also for cuts
- Health Insurance Costs, Process, and What's being done to plan for future years

Mr. Duggan made a few comments in response to the residents points:

- Dracut has one of the 9th lowest tax rates in Massachusetts
- Dracut is 91% residential
- Dracut sits next to the 4th largest city in the Commonwealth and issues migrate over causing issues for Dracut's Public Safety
- Charter School Assessment
- The School Department creates their own budget will little oversight or control from the Town
- Dracut needs business to invest in the infrastructure of Dracut to bring jobs and tax revenues into the Town
- The Town Manager discussed the Assisted Living Facility coming to Dracut providing jobs and tax revenue

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- Health Insurance, GIC trends and where the Town is going with health insurance as they work with their outside consultant for future planning

Ms. Tremblay thanked the audience for coming and providing their comments on the budget process.

Mr. Zimini made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Corey seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

FINANCE COMMITTEE











