

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

March 28, 2019

Present: Dorsey, Fletcher, McNerney, Titcomb, Rosenberg, (town accountant) Cheryl Stella

Absent: Sullivan, Goldman, Hilario

Dorsey called to order 7:05

Town Accountant Cheryl Stella issued new 2020 budget books and explained the original books had some minor issues with the narrative however the numbers in the original budget book were the same.

Mr. Dorsey had questions concerning vacation and sick time buy backs and other end of employment costs and requested further detail from the Town Accountant. Buy back line items fall under the human resource budget.

Discussion on health insurance and the PEC (Public Employee Committee) Agreement. McNerney gave historical info on how the town joined the current health plan. She would like to know what the splits are for health care so the finance committee can have a better understanding of how numbers can change with different ratios. Town Accountant Stella said the contract still has two to three years. McNerney feels this should be reviewed to understand the town's position and requested follow up details on the PEC Agreement and the health care premium split paid by employer (Town) vs employee.

Discussion on Pension Funding- Town obligation extends to 2032. State allows the obligation to be extended however the town retirement board has mandated 2032.

Discussion on excess levy and levy capacity. McNerney wants to know if the Board of Selectman or town administrators have discussed using this levy. Are there any conversations about using the excess levy for future new schools?

Discussed lawsuits and legal expenses. Town has a retainer with KP Law. Legal settlements are not included in operating expenses.

Discussed decrease in liability insurance. Swampscott Treasurer Ron Mendes negotiated a new contract with improved coverage, along with a decrease of 100k.

Discussed Debt Exclusion and the need to understand when debt is rolling off the books.

Motion to adjourn at 9:06, Ms. Titcomb, second Ms. Fletcher

APPROVED ON 4/22