

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes (Approved 5/15)

Wednesday May 8, 2019 held at 1st Floor Conference Room, Town Hall

Members Present: Dorsey (Chair), McNerney, Sullivan, Fletcher (Vice Chair), Goldman, Hilario, Rosenberg

Members Absent: Hartmann

Others Present: Chief Ronald Madigan (Police Chief); Darren Klein, Town Counsel.

Called to order 7:00pm

Mr. Dorsey called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and welcomed Chief Ronald Madigan. There were questions and much discussion amongst the committee members concerning Overtime, minimum manning and the levers available to the Chief and the Town to manage Overtime costs. The Chief provided history on the tradeoffs made between staffing levels, minimum manning levels and overtime costs, discussed the backfill approach depending on position of the person who is off, and described certain changes over time in the language of the contract relating to his discretion to limit how many officers take time off at any given time or other instances that may result in overtime costs. Chief Madigan described the recent benefits relating to census changes. He understands the concern with the OT costs and does not think they are unreasonable, but also mentioned that having a minimum of 5 people on staff at any given time feels right to him.

Counsel Klein reviewed the provisions of the contract that he thinks do not compare favorably to other Towns - mainly around how quickly time off builds up, total time off, inability to restrict or schedule time off, and minimum manning (more common in Fire contracts). There was discussion on the need for greater control and discretion over scheduling and time off to allow greater control over overtime costs.

Chief Madigan departed at 740pm and the Finance Committee went into Executive Session following a motion pursuant to "G.L. c. 30A, Section 21(a): Subsection 3 - To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Town - Public Safety Unions." The Chair declared that such discussion would have a detrimental effect on the Town's position and the motion was made, seconded and was unanimously passed by a roll call vote.

After the Executive Session ended, the Finance Committee discussed the overtime line items in the police budget that were specifically affected by the minimum manning language and how they compare to a few peer communities. There was also a brief discussion on the water and sewer retained earnings levels with Ms. McNerney expressing concern with the aggregate level of retained earnings in those enterprise funds and other accounts (eg, Overlay Surplus account).

Meeting Adjourned 9:00 pm