



Town of Swampscott

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Saturday, June 6, 2020

Meeting Conducted via remote participation on the zoom.us application

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c.30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the **Finance Committee** was conducted via remote participation utilizing the zoom.us application. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting was made available on the meeting posting. No in-person attendance of members of the public was permitted, and every effort was made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tim Dorsey (Chair), Mary Ellen Fletcher (Vice Chair), Cinder McNerney, Eric Hartmann, Jill Sullivan, Joan Hilario, Matthew Kirschner, Gail Rosenberg, James Goldman

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Peter Spellios (Chair, Select Board); Naomi Dreeben (Vice Chair, Select Board); Sean Fitzgerald, (Town Administrator); Ronald Mendes (Assistant Town Administrator)

Chairman Tim Dorsey called the Finance Committee meeting to order at 8:03am.

Mr. Dorsey discussed the bullet points that he sent by email to the committee members that he hoped would guide the discussion this morning.

The first hour or so would be for discussion on budget line items and questions for Mr. Fitzgerald and Mr. Mendes regarding the proposed budget. Mr. Dorsey opened the meeting to members who may have questions or suggestions. Ms. Fletcher provided some comments to the effect that she felt that in an emergency, it is difficult to add positions to the budget at this time. Ms. Fletcher presented a reduction of \$365,775 to the proposed budget. There was then some discussion about items of that nature.

A discussion then ensued specifically about the changes proposed to the Council on Aging/Senior Center budget about the need to hire a full-time executive director and the proposed adult day care program. There was also a discussion about the real need to expand the hours of the Animal Control Officer at this time. There was then a discussion about the levels of state aid and the options regarding adopting a budget at town meeting vs. adopting a 1/12th budget and adopting a full-year budget later in the year.

There was then a further detailed discussion about specific line items and recommendations for specific changes to certain line items. Mr. Dorsey opened for debate the idea of allocating to the Schools some or all of the additional Town expense reductions proposed by the Finance Committee to mitigate the size of the overall expense reduction allocated to the Schools. The debate focused on the reasonableness and consistency of the current split in expense reductions between the Town and the Schools and thus the idea was not supported by

the committee. After much discussion the committee arrived at the following decisions on its budget recommendations as itemized in the following motion: On Motion (Sullivan), with a Second (McNerney), it was VOTED by roll call vote (8-1-0), with Fletcher dissenting, to recommend the Town Administrator's budget to town meeting with the following changes: Reduce Recreation Dept. Expenses by \$15,000 (4th of July line); reduce Human Resources Personnel by \$10,000 (Interns/Temporary Help); Increase Snow & Ice in the DPW Budget by \$25,000.

The discussion then turned to the development of the Finance Committee's letter to town meeting. There will need to be a discussion about the need for further changes to this budget as circumstances change given the current emergency. There was then a further discussion about the level of information and the tenor of the letter.

The Committee then reviewed Article 9 (Capital Projects Article). On Motion (Sullivan), 2nd (McNerney) it was VOTED (9-0-0) to recommend Article 9 as voted by the Capital Improvement Committee with the following changes: Proj. #4 to make clearer that the project is for design of the entire area surrounding Fisherman's Beach and the Fish House, including the Fish House bathrooms; Proj. #5 to add "traffic" to the project description; and Proj. #21 reduce the recommended appropriation to \$60,000 per recent input received from School.

On MOTION (Ms. Sullivan) SECONDED (Mr. Hartmann) it was VOTED (unanimous, by roll call vote 9-0-0) to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 12:02 pm

True Attest,

Timothy Dorsey, Chair

Minutes APPROVED by vote of the Finance Committee 07/13/2020