



Town of Swampscott
Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 30, 2022 – 7 PM
Virtual Meeting

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Tim Dorsey (Chair), Mary Ellen Fletcher (Vice-chair), Cinder McNerney, Erik Schneider, Eric Hartmann, Suraj Krishnamurthi.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Joan Hilario, Naomi Dreeben, Matthew Kirschner

OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT

Amy Sarro, Director of Admin. & Finance; Patrick Luddy, Treasurer/Collector; Trang Vu, Asst. Town Accountant.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm.

Public Comment

MaryEllen Fletcher mentioned a citizen recommendation to have public comment at the beginning, during and at the end of the meeting.

Approvals of Meeting Minutes

None

Discussion on FY 23 proposed budget and, as applicable, meeting with department heads and/or Town or School leadership

Tim Dorsey summarized tonight's meeting purpose to go have all open budget line items discussed and finalized if possible and best preparation for meeting with School.

Amy Sarro confirmed the date to print the Town meeting warrant is April 26th.

Legal/Insurance - Employee Benefits

Amy Sarro shared the update on "Property & Casualty Insurance" line which is a \$45,000 increase from recommended amount. There are some changes also in Employee Benefits budget in which "Injury Police/Fire" and "Workers Comp Benefits" line items decrease \$15,000 and \$135,000, respectively, "Employee health Ins" increases \$72,000, from Town administrator's recommendation.

Cinder McNerney would like to know the reasons of all those changes. Amy Sarro mentioned we just received the updated quote from insurance company which handle our property casualty, Police/ Fire injury and Workers Comp after we had the budget proposed.

Cinder McNerney had a question regarding the high cost of “Town Counsel contract expense” for FY2023.

Amy Sarro commented on the reasons of keeping this line at that level are because the company has restructured the pricing in the contract and Town Administrator foresees as much as we can for upcoming legal costs. She also confirmed that it’s not as high as it has been the last 2 years. Tim Dorsey mentioned to some issues related to all of the protests in Town and CBA discussions that some of reasons which keeps this line items at this level.

Amy Sarro confirmed that “Salary Reserve” is still a moving target line item. She had updates from the Town Administrator that he would not ask School to share the portion of \$ 72,000 additional projected increase in Health Insurance cost but keep the same number of \$103,000 as mentioned last meeting.

Solid Waste Enterprise fund

Cinder McNerney asked how the Town came up with the amount of \$1,350,000 in Solid Waste enterprise fund.

Amy Sarro commented that this amount was what is needed for budget expenditures and the Town considered the reduction in general fund revenue by moving those revenues into the Enterprise fund. She responded to Eric Hartmann’s question on other purposes of Solid Waste Enterprise fund that there is small amount there for initiatives for Solid Waste Advisory Committee to improve out solid waste and recycling activities such as reduce school’s food waste, mattresses recycling, etc.

MaryEllen Fletcher had question on “Indirect Town Service” line under Solid Waste Enterprise fund. Amy Sarro confirmed that it’s required that every enterprise fund to have this expense line, accounts for bills processing, reporting, auditing, and trash calendar mailings.

Erik Schneider asked whether we could make Solid Waste Enterprise fund as a non-subsidized fund as Water & Sewer ones. Tim Dorsey and Matt Kirschner informed the committee that this discussed and ruled out in connection with meetings last year concerning the establishment of the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund.

Committee report

CIC- Reported by MaryEllen Fletcher

- CIC has not taken the vote.
- Topics that need more discussions: Gino Cresta’s \$500,000 request for Cemetery surplus removal, whether buy or lease Street Cleaner, Seawall project funding, Town hall Basement renovation.

Eric Hartmann mentioned to his conversation with Retirement Board chair Tom Driscoll that there is no updated vote on pension discount rates since there was not necessarily clear direction to do something different or a desire to do something different from Town and Finance Committee.

Old and new business

Tim Dorsey would like to hear from Finance Committee members whether it is beneficial to consider extending 1 more year in Pension schedule.

Amy Sarro would like to have some thoughts from Finance Committee members about how they want to set amounts for Finance Reserve in preparing for a new budget methodology starting FY2024.

On **MOTION** (MaryEllen Fletcher) and **SECONDED** (Cinder McNerney), it was VOTED by **ROLL CALL** to adjourn the meeting at 8:45pm. **ROLL CALL**: Eric Hartmann (YES), Erik Schneider (YES), Suraj Krisnamurthi (YES), Tim Dorsey (YES).

True Attest,

Trang Vu

Trang Vu, Assistant Town Accountant

Minutes APPROVED by vote of the Finance Committee 04/20/2022