

FINANCE COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, April 12, 2016  
Swampscott, MA 01907

Called to Order: A meeting of the Swampscott Finance Committee was held at the Swampscott Town Hall, 22 Monument Avenue, Swampscott, Mass at 7:00P.M.

Attendance: Chairman, Linso van der Burg, Vice Chair, and Members, Joan Hilario, William Jones, Cinder McNerney, Jill Sullivan, and Polly Mary Titcomb.

Open Discussion/ Retirement Board Discussion:

Mr. Thomas Driscoll from the Board of Retirement spoke on the request of a cola increase for retirees. Mr. Driscoll asked the Finance Committee to look at both side's employees and retirees, extend the funding schedule by two years, average pay for retirees is about twelve thousand per month. Mr. Driscoll spoke on wanting to give the retirees more money and has been asking every year for this. Mr. Driscoll commented that the Selectman do not want to know anything about the retirement system.

Member Jill Sullivan asked about the state system allowed to go up to 18%-Teachers @ at the 13% mark now currently all other communities are at 12%. Member Jill Sullivan spoke on the increase adding a million dollars to budget which is the long term effect on the budget.

Member Cinder McNerney spoke on the overall cost for years to come which will affect each year's budget, not just a onetime payment from an increase. Member Cinder McNerney asked how it affects the current retirees. Member Cinder McNerney does believe the whole amount is taken into account for the next hundred years.

Mr. Driscoll offered more information if needed from the Retirement Board.

Chairman Linso van der Burg suggested putting the article in-how do we compare to other Communities. in the article

Article Discussion:

- Article 3-Revolving account-Council on Aging -approved
- Article 11 / approved but not including the Chapter 90 money.
- Article 13- will report at Town Meeting
- Article 12-no action taken.
- Article 14- will report at Town Meeting.
- Article 15-retirement report after the Budget –Increasing expenditures –indefinite postponement of article.
- Article 16 in favor
- Article 17 report at Town Meeting
- Article 18clean up / selling properties / not to weigh in on question.
- Article 19 affordable housing project approved.
- Article 20, 21, 22 and 23—Zoning Articles
- Article 24-Machon –No vote.
- Article 25-no vote / Article 26/ indefinite postponement.

Budget Open discussion:

*Member Cinder McNerney would like to understand what the message is being given that the Town is rosy- No reports have been given to the Finance Committee for years even after asking for years- excuses every year/ Munis not reporting.*

*IT Director, Michelle Karas spoke up on the system of reports and stated spread sheets are not always the best. Ms. Karas spoke on outside services that are needed including a computer technician at the school department*

*Resident Mary Anne Fletcher asked about munis and excel being put together as one.*

*Resident Mary Anne Fletcher asked what was the saving on trash.*

*Resident Mary Ellen Fletcher questioned the savings from last year on the DPW Budget.*

*Member Linso van der Burg would like to add three thousand to the Harbor Master budget line, no line item for the Harbor Master. Member Linso van der Burg suggested that Mounzer Aylouche, Assistant Harbormaster should be paid for his services such as training, court cost.*

*Fire Department-No discussion.*

Police Budget:

*Suggestion to look at some of the money used for overtime could be used for a new employee.*

*Member Jill Sullivan believes the Police Budget is a little padded suggested that very specific's recommendations for next year's budget too late to do now.*

Votes of the Board:

*Member Jill Sullivan approved meeting minutes from April 5, 2016, seconded by Member Polly Mary Titcomb.*

Adjournment:

*The meeting was adjourned at 9:00P.M.*

*By Attest:*

*Maureen Shultz,  
Finance Secretary*