

Swampscott Finance Committee  
May 21, 2018

Joint Meeting with BOS: Peter Spellios, Laura Spathanas, Naomi Dreeben, Pat Jones, Don Hause

Attending: Marzie Galazka, Mary Ellen Fletcher, William Jones, Jill Sullivan, Gail Rosenberg, Cinder McNerney, Tim Dorsey, Joan Hilario, Polly Titcomb

Also attending; Ron Mendes (ATA), Sean Fitzgerald (TA), Cheryl Herrick-Stella.

Mr. Fitzgerald presented information regarding the five new collective bargaining agreements the town has negotiated. He feels they put the town in the best financial position it has been in in years. These are the most significant structural changes we have been able to negotiate in years. Over the past few years, the contracts basically just included COLA increases without many structural changes. The administration this time really dug into all the costs involved in the contracts and taking into consideration the impact on the budget. He itemized the amounts of free cash we need to transfer to cover these contracts for each contract: police, fire, clerical, DPW, and library.

Mr. Spellios indicated that the financial elements of these contracts are the same as we discussed in joint executive session. The Harbormaster issues that were raised in that meeting were resolved to the satisfaction of the BOS. He feels that these contracts represent a better return on investment over the long term than we have seen in the past. These are great changes, but there is a lot of work to do to get the town's structural financial position where we want it to be. We are getting to the end of being able to use significant amounts of Free Cash to offset the levy. He instructed that if we didn't have the \$1MM of free cash to offset the FY19 levy, the increase in the levy would be 3%. So, we still have a lot of structural problems to work on.

Mr. Fitzgerald wanted to highlight that the public employee unions bargained in good faith in a real strategic partnership with the town. We want to be able to hold on to the important work that town employees do to provide services to the town. He reiterated that we need to continue to work hard identifying ways we can work further on the structural issues we have.

Mr. Spellios asked that the Finance Committee indicate its support for these contracts before the BOS vote to ratify them. Ms. Rosenberg remarked that she hopes we don't overstate the positive to the Town Meeting. This is part of a larger effort and we need to be realistic with the town and with the town employees.

Sullivan/Rosenberg: motion to approve the finance committee recommendation for favorable action on article 5. 9-0.

BOS voted to ratify all the MOUs and also to recommend Article 5.

The Finance Committee removed to the High School Cafeteria to continue our meeting.

Motion to adjourn: Hilario/Titcomb 9-0.