

## Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday March 25, 2019 held at 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room, Town Hall

Members Present: Dorsey, Sullivan, Goldman, Hilario, McNerney, Fletcher

Members Absent: Rosenberg, Titcomb

Others Present: Mendes (minutes taker & Asst Town Administrator); Gino Cresta (Asst Town Administrator & DPW Director); Max Kasper (Building Inspector); Tom Prentiss (School Dept. Facilities Manager); and Peter Spellos (Chair, Board of Selectmen).

Called to order 7:00pm

Mr. Dorsey called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and welcomed Asst. Town Administrator/DPW Director Gino Cresta, Building Inspector Max Kasper & School Facilities Manager Tom Prentiss to the meeting.

There was some discussion regarding expectations from the Town Administrator on information needed in advance of next Monday's joint meeting with the Capital Improvement Committee. Mr. Dorsey indicated that he would follow up with Mr. Fitzgerald regarding information that the committee is anticipating in advance of next week's meeting. Ms. Fletcher asked Mr. Cresta about the necessity of the \$150,000 purchase of a sidewalk snow tractor. Mr. Cresta indicated that the proposed equipment will both push snow to the side, as well as throwing snow.

The committee then moved to the DPW portion of the agenda. Mr. Cresta then discussed the possibility of leasing equipment, as opposed to purchasing equipment. Mr. Dorsey then opened the meeting to questions for Mr. Cresta on the DPW portion of the budget. There was a question regarding the green communities grant funding and Mr. Prentiss then explained that there is a consultant providing this service to both the school and town-side applications for green communities' grants. Mr. Kasper indicated that there is approx. \$250,000 that comes in annually under green communities.

There was then some discussion about other grants and/or grant opportunities and how the town seeks grant funding.

It was noted that there was a reduction in the electricity budget in the DPW budget due to the changeover to LED. It was noted that Snow & Ice is down a bit. It is lower than the previous year. It was also noted by the committee that the larger than expected percentage increases in salaries look larger than expected because the 2019 adopted column in the budget does not include the increases resulting from the collective bargaining agreements that were funded for FY2019 in a separate article. There was also some discussion about the format of the budget. There needs to be some corrections in the headings, and some percentages in the DPW budget are not calculating correctly. Also, the notes appear to be last year's notes and are not updated for the current year.

Ms. Fletcher had a question about the Fish House; essentially, she wanted an update. Mr. Kasper explained that there is a capital project that is still being utilized to cover the repairs to the Fish House. Mr. Kasper explained that he is working with the Historical Commission and Historic District Commission on the needed upgrades to the Fish House. There was recently a walk-through of the building to get a sense of the current status of repair of the building. They are considering much of the architectural needs when doing work on this building. Mr. Kasper believes that the capital project is sufficient to cover the needs of the building. There is still some damage to the building from the March 2018 storm

that Mr. Cresta explained would be funded by a grant from FEMA, plus available funds in the capital project for the Fish House. Ms. Hilario asked about repairs to sidewalks. Mr. Cresta explained that there used to be a line item for sidewalks and another for patching. These lines were combined and an inflation factor was added due to increasing costs of asphalt. There was also a question about leaf disposal. There appears to have been a reduction in leaf drop offs. Mr. Cresta explained that there have been changes in the contractors that the town uses, which has resulted in reduced costs due to the new arrangement. Also, the Town will no longer offer the leaf drop off service. Beginning in FY2020, the only method of disposing of leaves will be to leave them curbside on the appropriate day. There will be a private vendor who will be able to provide leaf pickup service on other dates, but at a cost to residents.

Ms. McNerney then asked to talk about sea walls. She is concerned that the stairs at the beaches are degrading. Mr. Cresta explained that the \$200k requested in the capital plan will allow the town to make necessary repairs to Kings Beach and Eisman's Beach, including the stairs. Additionally, Mr. Cresta expects there to be funding from FEMA up to 75% of the cost of repairs. These repairs are expected to ensure that the sea walls will be repairs such that they will be structurally sound. Mr. Cresta further explained that the sea walls are structurally sound right now; he is just concerned about further storms in the future compromising the walls. Mr. Cresta explained that the \$200k will ensure that all seawalls and stairs on those beaches are structurally sound.


Ms. McNerney then asked about shade trees. There is a budget of \$7,500 for purchasing shade trees, and an additional \$7,500 for maintenance of trees. Mr. Cresta explained that there is a Tree Task Force that reviews trees throughout the Town. Mr. Cresta says that he does not have available labor to plant many more trees than those budgeted above.

Mr. Dorsey then asked to move the discussion to the status of repair of the Middle School. Mr. Prentiss explained that there was a further review of the status of the Middle School roof after the recent rain storm. The contractor is currently on the roof making repairs to seal existing leaks. Ms. Fletcher asked for clarification that the Middle School roof is "actively leaking." She spoke with several staff members who she said confirmed that the school's roof has been leaking for many years. Mr. Prentiss confirmed that the leaks have been on-going and the repairs that are being done have not been tested yet by an active rain event. He said there when there is a nor'easter there is intrusion through some of the windows when there is wind-driven rain, and we also need to essentially wait for another such storm to test the repairs that are being done to the roof. There are several quotes coming in to make repairs to windows in order to address the active leaking. Mr. Kasper explained that they are looking comprehensively at the status of the building is to issue an RFQ to conduct a formal assessment of the status of the entire building. The time may be right in terms of seeking MSBA funding to assist with funding of the needed repairs to the Middle School. Ms. Fletcher added that this is a very serious concern for her, that last year was the same situation, and expressed the view that it cannot continue.

There was also some discussion about the level of review that the Feasibility Study for the Elementary School project will review all school buildings in the district, including the Middle School. It was explained that the MSBA does a comprehensive review of the needs of all the school buildings and incorporates this review into its recommendations that will be contained in the feasibility study. Additionally, we will be conducting a comprehensive architectural and engineering study of the Middle School specifically in order to gain a better understanding of the status of repair of all the building systems in the Middle School. Ms. McNerney asked that Mr. Fitzgerald put together a timeline for

school building projects so that the committee can have a better understanding of which projects are going to be funded at what time from the MSBA.

Meeting Adjourned 8:50 pm.



Cheryl J.  
The Dorsey  
Chair