



Town of Swampscott

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 8, 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 7:01pm.

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

Ms. Fletcher wished to raise a further point with respect to the budget after Saturday's discussion. She asked to discuss the issue of taking employee raises out of the budget, while other items are being increased. Ms. Fletcher discussed making a motion to add \$154k back into the budget to cover employee contractual raises that were deleted from the budget, while other non-essential items or services were being increased. Mrs. Sullivan pointed out contractual raises will or will not have to be paid based on the outcome of negotiations regardless of the status of the budget. With that information Ms. Fletcher withdrew her discussion request.

There was then a discussion with Mr. Fitzgerald about the balance being struck in this budget at this time, including no layoffs or furloughs, and investing more in public health in response to the pandemic and in initiatives focused on seniors and our facilities. Raises that are contractual (collective bargaining agreements) will or will not have to be paid based on the outcome of negotiations regardless of the status of the budget.

Mr. Dorsey then asked the committee to begin discussion of the other financial warrant articles that are included in the warrant. There was some discussion and the following are the recommendations of the Finance Committee at this time for printing in the warrant:

Article 2: Finance Committee recommends indefinite postponement

- Article 3: Finance Committee recommends favorable action
- Article 4: Finance Committee will make a recommendation at town meeting
- Article 5: Finance Committee recommends favorable action
- Article 6: Finance Committee recommends favorable action
- Article 7: Finance Committee will make a recommendation at town meeting
- Article 8: Finance Committee recommends favorable action

The Committee noted that it had already recommended favorable action with respect to Article 9 in its prior meeting.

There was then some discussion about the Finance Committee's letter to be included in the warrant. The final version will be sent to Mr. Mendes to be copied into the warrant.

There was then some discussion about which members will present articles. Mr. Dorsey will present Articles 2 through 6, and Ms. McNerney will present Articles 7 through 9.

There was then some discussion about the logistics of holding town meeting on the virtual platform.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:06pm.

True Attest,

Timothy Dorsey, Chair

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