

Swampscott Finance Committee Meeting
Wednesday, April 26, 2017
7:00P

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

Absent: Tim Dorsey

Also present: Michael McClung (Town Moderator), Marilyn Hurwitz (COA), Marilyn Cassidy (Chair COA Board)

Meeting was opened at 7:04.

Public Comment:

Kim Nasser makes a statement. Would like the town to confirm in writing that NGrid will continue to pay \$55,000 in taxes even after the RT. National Grid said they have not spoken to the town of Swampscott in more than two years. They reached out today to Town Administrator. They confirmed that they would not grant an easement. Disputes the validity of the Master Plan procedure. Feels that the price tag was not included in the master plan procedure.

Marilyn Hurwitz director of Swampscott Senior Center. It's been 10 years in the SHS. COA has a nine member board who advocate and help. For the first time Ms. Hurwitz is asking for a capital improvement allocation for the Center – Community Access Grant. The training occurs on Friday May 15 for the grant application. We have received the grant twice. 2009 – ten passenger van. The COA privately raised the matching funds. 2016 we received another large grant and privately raised the funds for the match. She would like the town to support the match this year. We won't hear until September whether or not we've gotten the van. Ms. Hurwitz has seen other departments requesting capital funds for vehicles and is making this request for capital support this year. Last year 1500 people came into the Senior Center at least once and did 2300 transportation rides. Last year a great deal of repairs were required on the 2009 van – over \$2000. There is \$14,000 in the warrant for this request under Article 19.

The second issue for the Senior Center is for an outreach coordinator going from half time into 30 hours a week. The building is densely used. There is not free space in the building for most of the days and times of the week. There are 3143 seniors in the town. We get \$10 per senior citizen in a formula grant. This takes care of three employees salaries as well as a few other items. Ms. Hurwitz would use the additional funds from the formula grant to help with the trips with shut-ins. And the outreach employee would do more outreach for caretakers etc. We now have a trained SHINE counselor.

Ms. Fletcher asked if the gym were air conditioned would the CC be able to use it more? Ms. Hurwitz stated – probably not the case.

Ms. Galazka reports that Dave Castellerin, the town Accountant, resigned effective today. Mr. Fitzgerald reports that Mr. Cresta will be elevated to assistant Town Administrator for Operations and Mr. Mendes will be elevated to assistant Town Administrator for Administrator. The Finance Committee reviewed a few of the financial changes that would be made to the budget to effectuate this change.

Going over articles for our approval:

We need to ask the TA about Articles 5-7.

On Article 34 – Sullivan/McNerney 8-0

The finance committee prepared a list of questions for the Town Administrator and the Board of Selectmen that are outstanding on the Warrant. We would like them to come in on Monday with answers.

The finance committee made decisions about who would be speaking on which articles.

Motion to dismiss at 8:51 by Joan/Cinder