

Swampscott Finance Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, April 19, 2017  
7:00P

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

Also Attending: Ron Mendes ( Town Treasurer) Gino Cresta (DPW Director) Leah Ryan (CIC), Sean Fitzgerald (Town Administrator) Rich Raymond (CIC), Mary Webster (Open Space Committee) Mike McClung (Town Moderator)

Meeting called to order at 7:03. Ms. Galazka greets the many citizens at the meeting.

Public Comment:

Kim Nasser expresses that the Rail Trail opponents would like as much time to present their point of view about the issue at the meeting on 4/24 as the supporters. Ms. Galazka asked if it would be best for interested parties on the Rail Trail would have a representative to speak for the group. Ms. Nasser guessed that there would be a public statement and possibly further resident comments.

Mary Webster presents a letter on behalf of the Open Space committee supporting two new employees for the DPW. These employees would do the work that an outside company is currently doing on the field. They would like these individuals to use a more organic, non-pesticide treatment plan for the fields. Mr. Fitzgerald thinks it's a great idea in principle but has not had the chance to look at the cost/benefit analysis of adding these two employees. Ms. Webster stated that she understands that this may be a good starting point to consider for next year. She remarked that the DPW has done an excellent job getting a lot of the open space committee's items going already – but the committee would like to consider this idea for next year. Mr. Cresta put the contract out as a one year with two one-year options to make room for this next year.

Ms. Rosenberg asked if the outside vendor could implement the organic land management plan. Ms. Webster and Mr. Cresta stated not with the current manpower. However, a few of our fields are treated organically. Josh Fields of the Athletic Field Committee is on board with this idea as well.

Mr. Cresta explained that field maintenance and training for the new synthetic field are built into the contract.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the new table of town FTEs will be available shortly.

Mr. Cresta presented the DPW budget.

The Operating Expenses & Supplies number is up \$25K. For six months, there are three guys non-stop paving. The expense for the asphalt has been shifted out of water/sewer and into this line item.

The expense for the administration building has been shifted to the budget for Facilities. Snow and Ice jumped from 200,000 to \$240,000. The number comes closer to the actual number than in years past to be transparent about what it actually costs.

Ms. Fletcher asked if DPW has to change the way the department runs with two people out on lengthy sick/disability.

Looking at the Enterprise funds is a project going on in the near future. Mr. Mendes thinks we need to come up with a stronger policy for how much of various salaries get attributed to the water and sewer enterprise funds. We keep approximately 4 months expenditures in retained earnings in each fund.

Stacy Brook. Our plan is to reline the sewer mains. That way we don't have to worry about the drain, because if nothing can get out of the sewer, the drain becomes a non-issue. We have planned to spend \$2MM every other year. EPA accepted our plan. Then they came back and said they don't think it's going to be enough.

EPA believes that 2% of your average median annual income should go to your sewer utility. That would result in a 200% increase in the sewer rates. The finance committee discussed various scenarios regarding the financing of the Stacy Brook project.

Ms. Fletcher asked if the revenue that comes in to the Fish House covers the operating expenses of the building. Mr. Fitzgerald said they are working to make the contract reflect the true costs.

Leah Ryan went over changes the CIC voted on. Mr. Fitzgerald remarked that some of these changes have not been through the Board of Selectmen yet. He is inclined to recommend the fire truck now. There were a few changes made to the capital improvement plan.

Motion to improve minutes of 4/12: Gail/Bill 9-0 approved.

Motion to dismiss at 8:58 Bill/Cinder 9-0