

Town of Longmeadow

Minutes of the Finance Committee for March 6, 2019

Longmeadow High School, Room A15

Finance Committee Members Present; Paul Santaniello-Chairperson, Andrew Lam-Vice Chairperson (arrived at 7:05), Ed Clark-Clerk, Maury Garrett Jr., Chaya Kosofsky, and Eileen Morin

Finance Committee Members absent: William Welch

Other Present: Paul J. Pasterczyk-Finance Director, Armand Wray-Chairperson of the School Committee, Marty O'Shea-School Superintendent, Tom Mazza-Asst. School Superintend Finance and Administration, Steven Weiss-Chairperson of the Community Preservation Committee (CPC), Ron Manseau-CPC member, and Peter Landon-Audit Committee

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

There were no visitor comments

Minutes from the February 27, 2019 meeting were approved as presented (4-0-01 in favor)

Superintendent O'Shea and Asst. Superintendent Mazza presented information regarding the Longmeadow school system with the main focus on the School's FY 2020 proposed operating budget. It was noted that the bottom line multi fund budget request was up 1.70% with the requested amount from the General Fund up 2.36%. Changes in significant School Special Funding sources, FY19 vs FY 20, were discussed along with the larger dollar areas of reductions and additions increases in the operating budget. Perspective was provided on longer term historical data related to Special Education costs, cost-of-living-allowances and full time equivalencies were discussed. It was noted that enrollment has been relatively stable over the last ten years and projected to be stable for the next ten years

CPC Chairperson Weiss and CPC member Manseau provided a brief overview of their funding sources noting that a 1% surcharge is applied to property values with the first \$100,000 of value exempt on residential properties. Additionally, the state matches the Town's revenue with a certain percent based upon the State budget for such. The FY 2019 matching percent was 11.50% but had been in the vicinity of 20.00% not that long ago. The State appropriation gets diluted as more communities accept the provision of the Community Preservation statute. The total FY 19 revenue is estimated to be approximately \$400,000. Chairperson Weiss and Mr. Manseau reviewed and answered Finance Committee member questions on each project being recommended by the CPC for funding at the upcoming annual town meeting in May.

The Finance Committee briefly discussed the relationship between only raising 2.00% of the allowable 2.50% of property taxes and the bottom line FY 2020 General Fund budget proposal increasing 2.54%

Next meeting scheduled for March 14, 2019 with invited guests being: Town Manager Stephen Crane, Police Chief John Stankiewicz and Fire Chief John Dearborn.

Motion to adjourn at 9:22pm (6 – 0 in favor)