

Town of Longmeadow

Minutes of the Finance Committee for March 13, 2019

Longmeadow High School, Room A15

Finance Committee Members Present; Paul Santaniello-Chairperson, Maury Garrett Jr. (arrived at 7:03pm), Chaya Kosofsky, William Welch (arrived at 7:01pm) and Eileen Morin

Finance Committee Members absent: Andrew Lam-Vice Chairperson, Ed Clark-Clerk

Other Present: Paul J. Pasterczyk - Finance Director, Stephen Crane – Town Manager, John Stankiewicz – Police Chief, John Dearborn – Fire Chief, and Peter Landon–Audit Committee

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

There were no visitor comments

Stephen Crane, Town Manager gave a brief overview of his proposed FY 2020 operating budget noting that the budget has been submitted to the Select Board who act upon it and submit a budget to be voted on at Town Meeting. The budget met the goals of only utilizing 2.00% of the allowable property tax 2.50% increase allowed under Prop 2.1/2. The budget funds the OPEB trust at the goal of 1.25% of the tax levy. The operating budget fully funds the Schools budget request and does not utilize reserves. Capital is funded at 3.00% (same as FY 19) of the operating revenues less the amounts raised for debt exclusions but fully funds the Town Manager's capital budget proposal. Mr. Crane highlighted the percentage increases in each General Fund function and further highlighted areas where larger budget swings were evident: Reserve Fund, Library, Debt Service and Employee / Retiree Benefits. Mr. Crane also explained the use of the MGM funds in the FY 19 budget and FY 20 budget proposal. A brief question and answer period followed.

Police Chief John Stankiewicz and Fire Chief John Dearborn were asked about their FY 20 budget and the areas of concern as they look forward. Training and employee retention were the main topics. Both chiefs collaborate with each other on many trainings and mentioned the additional collaboration with the School Dept. in many of the training taking place. It was mentioned that training personnel involves the use of overtime approximately 80% of the time. Maintaining quality personnel is of great importance to each of the chiefs. Employee recruitment through adequate training can easily take up to a year by the time the employee goes through their respective academy and are further acclimated with the Longmeadow standard operating procedures. Job vacancies also take a toll on overtime expenditures.

Next meeting scheduled for March 20, 2019

Minutes from the March 6, 2019 meeting were approved as presented (4-0-1 in favor)

Motion to adjourn at 8:42pm (5 – 0 in favor)