

Town of Longmeadow

Minutes of the Finance Committee for March 20, 2019

Longmeadow High School, Room A15

Finance Committee Members Present; Paul Santaniello-Chairperson, Andrew Lam-Vice Chairperson, Ed Clark-Clerk Maury Garrett Jr., William Welch and Eileen Morin

Finance Committee Members absent: Chaya Kosofsky

Other Present: Paul J. Pasterczyk - Finance Director, Jean Maziarz - Storrs Library Director, Bari Jarvis – Parks/Rec Director, Mario Mazza – DPW Director, Dr. Stephen Metz – Chairperson of the Capital Planning Committee, and Peter Landon–Audit Committee

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

There were no visitor comments

Minutes from the March 13, 2019 meeting were approved as presented (5-0-1 in favor)

Mario Mazza gave a brief overview of his FY 2020 budget request which he identified as a “level funded” budget. Mr. Mazza did seek additional dollars in the General Fund for some of the more problematic areas of his budget: forestry trimming / removal and planting, field maintenance and the line item for High School maintenance. The increase in the Water Fund was attributable to the purchase price set by the City of Springfield from whom the town purchases its water supply. The Sewer Fund and the Solid Waste / Recycling Fund were near level while the Stormwater Fund was being driven by the required additional needs to comply with Federal regulations and the debt service on capital projects (Magnolia Circle and Willowbrook Rd.). Mr. Mazza confirmed the Committee’s belief that if the Wolf Swamp fields were improved then additional maintenance dollars would be needed in his budget however he did not have an estimate of the amount. It is believed that additional user fees assessed by the Parks / Rec Dept. could help offset the impact to the General Fund.

Jean Maziarz explained the changes in her budget and how they impacted the benefits received from MA Board of Library Commissioners. These benefits included the participation in the statewide library network and grant dollars, approximately \$20,000 annually. The Town has not met the budgetary requirements of the State Board for the last several years but has successfully been granted waivers over those years as a result of treating the library budget equal or better than the other municipal departments. The increased FY 2020 budget dollars will allow the Storrs Library to increase the hours the library is open to the public from 50/week to 59/week and brings the overall dollar commitment closer to the required amounts of the State Board.

Bari Jarvis discussed the increase amount recommended for Day Care Salaries. The amount would fully fund teachers at the maximum capacity of the facility. Funds for the Day Care salaries and benefits are fully reimbursed to the General Fund by the day care fees collected in the Park / Rec Revolving Fund. Ms. Jarvis explained the demands on the Town’s fields by the various sports programs

Dr. Metz gave an overview of the capital planning process and the criteria used in ranking the requested projects: mandated capital, capital involving safety issues, capital requested for efficiency purposes and those that would enhance the quality of life for Longmeadow residents. Dr. Metz went through his priority listing of the capital projects and briefly explained each.

Next meeting scheduled for March 27, 2019.

Motion to adjourn at 8:40pm (6 – 0 in favor).