

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

January 28, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.
Old Water Department Room – Falmouth Town Hall
59 Town Hall Square, Falmouth, MA 02540

APPROVED MINUTES

Present: Keith Schwegel, Nick Lowell, Susan P. Smith, Kathleen Beriau, Joseph “Dutch” Drolette Ron Dyer, Cynthia Eaton, Peter Hargraves, Mary Harris, Joseph Lemay, Judith P. Magnani, Deborah D. Maguire, Jim Marnell, James Newman, Wendy Vogel

Absent: None

Public Present: Jennifer Mullen (Finance Director), Julian Suso (Town Manager), Sam Patterson (Board of Selectmen), Brad Cole (Falmouth Enterprise)

Handouts:

1. WELCOME

Keith Schwegel opened the meeting at 7:01pm

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Keith discussed the April Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article Assignments

He also noted that the February 25th meeting would be held in the Herman Room at the Falmouth Public Library, adding that the discussion of the Override Article would occur at that meeting

He stated that the Committee members responsible for the Fire/Rescue Budget item (No. 6 on the Agenda) would be postponed until a future meeting.

4. APPROVE MINUTES – DECEMBER 10, 2019

Peter Hargraves requested that Item 6, Bullet 5 be changed to “investigating financial trends”

Keith moved the minutes as amended

All in favor

5. GENERAL GOVERNEMENT - PERSONNEL

Judy Magnani requested that the item be moved to a future meeting

6. PUBLIC SAFETY – FIRE/RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Per the note in the Chairman’s Report, this item was moved to a future meeting

7. PUBLIC SAFETY – POLICE DEPARTMENT

Jim Newman moved \$6,835,558 for the Police Department

Dutch Drolette seconded

Jim presented the details of the budget

The Committee discussed the following:

- Police Vehicles
- Vehicle Maintenance
- Uniforms
- Drug Investigation

All but one in favor, Susan Smith abstained

8. PUBLIC SAFETY – MARINE & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Peter Hargraves moved \$1,065,975 for Marine & Environmental Services

Dutch Drolette seconded

Peter presented the details of the budget, focusing on the following:

- Electricity
- Printing
- Site Improvement
- Pump-Out Boat

All but one in favor, Susan Smith abstained

9. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Judy Magnani recused herself and left the room

Dutch Drolette moved \$736,678 for the Building Department

Wendy Vogel seconded

Dutch presented the details of the budget, focusing on the following:

- Salaries
- Repair & Maintenance – Office Equipment

The Committee discussed the following:

- Salary increases

All in favor

There was a short discussion on the wage increases across the departments and the impact of the AFSCME A settlement on the budget

10. DPW – HIGHWAY DIVISION – WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY

Wendy Vogel moved to reconsider \$360,895 for the Waste Management Facility

Susan Smith seconded

Wendy re-addressed the following:

- Recycling services
- Well monitoring

The Committee discussed the following:

- Scrap metal fees
- Other items collected at the facility

All in favor

11. DPW – FLEET SERVICES

Wendy Vogel moved \$494,261 for Fleet Services

Dutch Drolette seconded

Wendy presented the details of the budget, focusing on the following:

Vacancies

Age of the fleet and its impact on maintenance costs

The Committee discussed the following:

Licenses and permits

All in favor

12. DPW – WATER DIVISION

Wendy Vogel requested that the item be moved to a future meeting

13. DPW – RENEWABLE ENERGY

Wendy Vogel requested that the item be moved to a future meeting

14. COMMUNITY SERVICES – VETERANS’ SERVICES

Jim Marnell moved \$598,968 for Veterans’ Services

Dutch Drolette seconded

Jim explained the details of the budget

The Committee discussed the following:

- State reimbursement
- State requirements for municipalities

All in favor

15. OTHER BUSINESS

Keith Schwegel addressed Article 6 in the April Annual Town Meeting Warrant regarding gifts and grants. He commented that the current process to involve the Finance Committee does not allow time to consider the particular grant or gift before it goes before the Board of Selectmen.

16. ADJOURN

Dutch Drolette moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:46pm

Ron Dyer seconded

All in favor