

## FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

March 3, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.

Selectmen's Meeting Room – Falmouth Town Hall  
59 Town Hall Square, Falmouth, MA 02540

### APPROVED MINUTES

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

*Absent:* Joseph "Dutch" Drolette, Wendy Vogel

*Public Present:* Jennifer Mullen (Finance Director), Julian Suso (Town Manager), Lori Duerr (FPS Superintendent), Patrick Murphy (FPS Director of Finance and Operations), Brad Cole (Falmouth Enterprise)

*Handouts:* Additional Firefighter Cost Breakdown for Article 14; Override Effect on the Tax Rate; Fire Department Statistics; Article 16 Details

#### 1. WELCOME

Keith Schwegel opened the meeting at 7:03pm

#### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

#### 3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

None

#### 4. EDUCATION DEPARTMENT – FALMOUTH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

Susan Smith moved \$50,218,817 for the Falmouth Public Schools (FPS)

Ron Dyer seconded

Sue invited Lori Duerr, FPS Superintendent and Patrick Murphy, FPS Director of Finance and Operations to speak on the Falmouth Public Schools

Lori Duerr presented a summary of the FPS Budget, focusing on the following:

- Woods Hole Partnership Specials Position
- Science Fairs
- Elementary Level Language Position
- English language learner population
- Occupational therapy
- Wrap around services (mental health)

The Committee discussed the following:

- Language program choices

Patrick Murphy presented a more detailed budget synopsis, focusing on the following:

- 2½% Increase from the previous fiscal year
- Budget breakdown; Salaries \$40,898,577/Non Salary \$9,320,240
- Collective bargaining negotiations
- Transportation line increase

The Committee discussed the following:

- Special Education (current and projected costs)
- Special Education Stabilization Fund
- Out of district costs
- FPS pie chart for next year's Budget Book

All in favor

5. WARRANT ARTICLE 14 – HIRE EIGHT ADDITIONAL FIREFIGHTERS

Keith addressed the previous week's collaborative meeting with the Board of Selectmen, Town Management and the Fire Chief.

Susan Smith moved \$971,507 to hire eight additional firefighters

Mary Harris seconded

Jennifer Mullen passed out the final cost breakdown for each firefighter and the projected override effect on the tax rate

Jennifer gave a summary of the two handouts, focusing on the following:

- Joint effort with the Finance Committee and the Retirement Board
- Assumptions used for the cost breakdown (Pay rate, Medicare, health insurance, etc)
- Funding for the unfunded liability

The Committee discussed the following:

- Cost breakdown for each firefighter

The Chair recognized Joe Netto for public comment, he spoke on the potential effects of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) on our estimated receipts and urged caution on approving additional expenditures that may rely on those receipts.

The Committee discussed the following:

- Revenue stream for this Article
- Effect of override on those with fixed incomes
- Past economic downturns and their effects on revenues
- Statistics for the Town's Fire Department
- FY21 Overtime budget
- West Falmouth Fire Station staffing
- Town budgeting practices

Ron Dyer moved the question

All but one in favor, Joseph Lemay opposed

6. WARRANT ARTICLE 12 – DEBT STABILIZATION FUND

Kathleen Beriau moved \$500,000 for Debt Stabilization

Susan Smith seconded

Kathleen presented the purpose of the Article

The Committee discussed the following:

- Funding Source

All in favor

7. WARRANT ARTICLE 16 – FY20 BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

Kathleen Beriau moved \$698,000 for FY20 Budget Transfers

Jennifer Mullen passed out the details and gave a summary of the reasons for the Article

The Committee discussed the following:

- Fire/Rescue FY19 appropriation and expenditures
- Firefighters in Academy; how paid in the current budget
- Public Safety overtime necessity
- Labor Counsel definition

All in favor

8. WARRANT ARTICLE 17 – SUPPLEMENT FY20 BUDGET

Kathleen moved the Article for indefinite postponement

Nick Lowell seconded

All in favor

9. WARRANT ARTICLE 35 – WATER QUALITY MONITORING AND SUPPORT

Judy Magnani moved the Article for indefinite postponement

Susan Smith seconded

All in favor

10. WARRANT ARTICLE 42 – CPC – GUV FULLER FIELD IMPROVEMENTS

Joseph Lemay moved to concur with \$298,291 for Guv Fuller Field Improvements

Ron Dyer seconded

Joe presented the details of the project

All in favor

Susan Smith asked who was responsible for the field

Julian Suso replied that it is primarily the Town's responsibility

11. WARRANT ARTICLE 43 – CPC – SHIVERICK'S POND PROJECT

Joseph Lemay moved to concur with \$310,000 for the Shiverick's Pond Project

Susan Smith seconded

Joe presented the details of the project

The Committee discussed the following:

- Previous year's Article for \$40,000
- Who is performing the work

All in favor

12. WARRANT ARTICLE 46 – CPC – EDWARD MARKS BUILDING HISTORIC STRUCTURE REPORT

Joseph Lemay moved to concur with \$50,000 for a historic structure report of the Edward Marks Building

Susan Smith seconded

All in favor

13. WARRANT ARTICLE 47 – CPC – FUNDING FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES NECESSARY TO REHAB BASEBALL FIELDS LOCATED AT TROTTHING PARK

Joseph Lemay moved to concur with \$45,000 for rehab of the baseball fields located at Trotting Park

Ron Dyer seconded

The Committee discussed the following:

- Clarification on location of Little League Fields
- Maintenance responsibility (Town maintains, Recreation schedules)

All in favor

14. WARRANT ARTICLE 49 – CPC – AFFORDABLE HOUSING FUND

Joseph Lemay moved to concur with \$1,357,518 for the Affordable Housing Fund

Ron Dyer seconded

Joe presented the details of the request

The Committee discussed the following:

- Funding amount, how determined

All in favor

15. PUBLIC SAFETY – CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS

Ron Dyer moved \$726,465 for Consolidated Communications  
Susan Smith seconded  
Ron presented the details of the budget  
Joe Lemay recused himself and left the room  
The Committee discussed the following:

- Contractual services

All in favor

16. DEBT SERVICE – EXCLUDED PRINCIPAL

Kathleen Beriau moved \$8,346,104 for Excluded Debt Principal  
Nick Lowell seconded

Jennifer Mullen presented a snapshot of the overall debt, including the refinance that occurred in December of 2019, which included a portion of short-term debt

The Committee discussed the following:

- Debt numbers
- Debt drop-off
- Debt management policy
- Refinancing
- Debt graph for Town Meeting
- Projected Debt

All in favor

17. DEBT SERVICE – EXCLUDED INTEREST

Kathleen Beriau moved \$2,873,798 for Excluded Debt Interest  
Susan Smith seconded

All in favor

18. DEBT SERVICE – UNEXCLUDED PRINCIPAL

Kathleen Beriau moved \$3,381,794 for Unexcluded Debt Principal  
Susan Smith seconded

All in favor

19. DEBT SERVICE – UNEXCLUDED INTEREST

Kathleen Beriau moved \$1,054,563 for Unexcluded Debt Interest  
Susan Smith seconded

All in favor

20. OTHER BUSINESS

Keith Schwegel addressed the next week's meeting and the Committee discussed potential agenda items

21. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm