

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

January 22, 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, Ron Dyer, Peter Hargraves, Mary Harris, Joseph Lemay, Judith P. Magnani, Jim Marnell, James Newman, Wendy Vogel

Absent: Kathleen Beriau, Joseph “Dutch” Drolette, Cynthia Eaton, Deborah D. Maguire

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 7:00pm.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Keith Schwegel recognized Jennifer Mullen for a short presentation on the Fiscal 2021 Budget. Jennifer Mullen gave a synopsis of the presentation that was given at the Board of Selectmen’s meeting on January 6th.

After the presentation, Keith commented briefly on the Committee’s role in the budget process.

4. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

Jim Marnell moved \$313,881 for the Conservation Department

Susan Smith seconded

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

- A \$250 increase to the Uniform line item due to the AFSCME A contract settlement

The Committee discussed the following:

- Department activity – second busiest department in the State
- Vacant position

All in favor

5. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Peter Hargraves moved \$298,920 for the Planning Department

Susan Smith seconded

Peter presented the details of the budget

All in favor

6. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – ZONING APPEALS

Susan Smith moved \$141,595 for Zoning Appeals

Jim Marnell seconded

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

- Communications - Postage

The Committee discussed the following:

- Staff Development
- Auto Allowance

- Professional/Technical Contractual Services

All in favor

7. DPW – ADMIN & ENGINEERING

Wendy Vogel moved \$889,965 for DPW Admin & Engineering

Susan Smith seconded

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

- Director vacancy
- New solid waste/recycling employee
- Recycling changes

The Committee discussed

- Interim Director
- New solid waste/recycling employee
- Uniform allowance increase
- Staff development

All in favor

8. DPW – ADMIN & ENGINEERING – STREET LIGHTING

Wendy Vogel moved \$105,000 for Street Lighting

Susan Smith seconded

Wendy presented the details of the budget

The Committee discussed the following:

- “Admiral Cap” lights
- Transition to LED

All in favor

9. DPW – HIGHWAY DIVISION

Wendy Vogel moved \$1,488,050 for DPW Highway

Susan Smith seconded

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

- List of road repairs scheduled
- Increased porta-potty locations
- Vacant positions
- New trash truck scheduling

The Committee discussed the following:

- Tools line item (moved to Fleet Mgt)
- Seasonal workers line item increase
- Temporary wages request
- Litter collection

All in favor

10. DPW – HIGHWAY DIVISION – SNOW & ICE

Wendy Vogel moved \$375,00 for Snow & Ice

Susan Smith seconded

Wendy presented the details of the budget

The Committee discussed the following:

- Fuel/Diesel line item
- Reducing the Snow & Ice to one consolidated line in the Warrant

All in favor

11. DPW – HIGHWAY DIVISION – VEHICLE FUEL
 Wendy Vogel moved \$335,000 for Vehicle Fuel
 Peter Hargraves seconded
 All in favor
12. DPW – HIGHWAY DIVISION – SOLID WASTE COLLECTION
 Wendy Vogel moved \$3,663,000 for Solid Waste Collection
 Peter Hargraves seconded
 Wendy presented the details of the budget
 The Committee discussed the following:
- Contract expiration date
 - Recycling quality issues
- All in favor
13. DPW – HIGHWAY DIVISION – BIKEWAYS
 Wendy Vogel moved \$2,000 for Bikeways
 Peter Hargraves seconded
 Wendy presented the details of the budget
 The Committee discussed the following:
- Maps for Chamber of Commerce
- All in favor
14. DPW – HIGHWAY DIVISION – WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY
 Wendy Vogel moved \$360,895 for the DPW Waste Management Facility
 Peter Hargraves seconded
 Wendy presented the details of the budget
 The Committee discussed the following:
- Construction and Demolition debris/recycling
 - Well monitoring
- Nick Lowell moved for withdrawal of the consideration
 Susan Smith seconded
 All in favor
15. DPW – TREE & PARKS MAINTENANCE
 Wendy Vogel moved \$1,251,933 for DPW Tree & Parks Maintenance
 Susan Smith seconded
 Wendy presented the details of the budget, focusing on the following:
 Playground safety
 New Senior Center and Playground responsibilities
 Employment Attrition
 The Committee discussed the following:
- Goodwill Park closed entrances
 - Chart of Responsibilities
 - Seasonal workers
 - Field Maintenance
- All in favor
16. DPW – WASTEWATER DIVISION
 Nick Lowell recused himself and left the room
 Wendy Vogel moved \$1,646,445 for the DPW Wastewater Division

Susan Smith seconded

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

- Plant electricity costs
- Grinder pumps
- Power outages and pump-outs

The Committee discussed the following:

- Grinder pump power outages and pump-outs
- Grinder pump warranties

All in favor

17. DPW – RENEWABLE ENERGY

Moved to a future meeting

18. COMMUNITY SERVICES – RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Joseph Lemay moved \$571,727 for the Recreation Department

Peter Hargraves seconded

Joe presented the details of the budget

All in favor

19. COMMUNITY SERVICES – BEACH DEPARTMENT

Peter Hargraves moved \$773,506 for the Beach Department

Joe Lemay seconded

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

- Seasonal Wages

The Committee discussed the following:

- Credit Card machine malfunctions
- Seasonal employees
- Highway crossover employees

All in favor

20. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS – COURT JUDGEMENTS

Jim Newman moved \$500 for Court Judgements

Susan Smith seconded

All in favor

21. INSURANCE & RESERVE – PROPERTY, LIABILITY & WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Jim Newman moved \$1,724,538 for Property, Liability and Workers' Compensation Insurance

Susan Smith seconded

The Committee discussed the following:

- Whether the Town was self-insured in these areas

All in favor

22. OTHER BUSINESS

Keith Schwegel addressed a change in the Library Budget assignments due to a recent conflict of interest

The Committee discussed the following regarding the Override Article expected in the April Annual Town Meeting Warrant:

The Committee discussed the following:

- Whether the Fire/Rescue Override Article would be fall under the responsibility of the Finance Committee
- Who, besides Chief Small, should be included in Committee discussions

- Location for this discussion

23. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:47pm