

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

March 10, 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, Jim Marnell, James Newman

Absent: Deborah D. Maguire, Wendy Vogel

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

Handouts: None

1. WELCOME

Keith Schwegel opened the meeting at 7:00pm

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

None

4. APPROVE MINUTES

Ron Dyer moved the minutes of February 18th, 2020

Mary Harris seconded

Jim Marnell suggested that the notation of a live broadcast for the February 25th meeting be changed to recorded broadcast

All in favor

5. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS - RETIREMENT

Mary Harris moved \$8,972,150 for Retirement

Dutch Drolette seconded

Mary explained the details of the line item, focusing on the following:

- Percentage of overall budget
- Projected percentage of overall budget by 2033

The Committee discussed the following:

- Percentage this budget attributable to catchup/regular

All in favor

6. WARRANT ARTICLE 7 – ELECTED OFFICIALS’ SALARIES

Ron Dyer moved annual salaries for the following:

Town Moderator \$1,500.00

Selectmen (non-chair) \$5,000.00

Selectmen (Chair) \$6,000.00

Town Clerk (includes 2% COLA) \$96,330.00

Susan Smith seconded

All in favor

7. WARRANT ARTICLE 32 – AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/DIVERSITY OUTREACH COORDINATOR POSITION

Jim Marnell moved to indefinitely postpone the petition article

Susan Smith seconded

The Committee discussed the following:

- Board of Selectmen vote on Article 31 – Creation of the position
- Funding a position that has not been created
- Responsibility for creation of the position
- Previous history of a similar position

All in favor

8. WARRANT ARTICLE 39 – CPC – NYE PARK RECREATIONAL COURTS

Peter Hargraves moved reconsideration of the Article 39

Susan Smith seconded

The original amount the Committee voted to concur with was incorrect and didn't include an additional amount for handicap access

Peter moved to concur with the revised amount of \$497,500

All in favor

9. WARRANT ARTICLE 8 – FY21 BUDGET

Susan Smith moved Article 8 as printed and as voted by individual department

Dutch Drolette seconded

All in favor

10. DISCUSSION – TOWN MEETING

Keith Schwegel addressed Article 14, the hiring of eight additional Firefighters, and the potential need for the Committee to provide support at Town Meeting. Mary Harris volunteered to be the spokesperson on Town Meeting floor.

Peter Hargraves commented on the practice of citizens who serve as Committee members writing letters that don't support their Committee's vote. It was his opinion that this was underhanded behavior.

Keith Schwegel addressed the new members and indicated that if they were present at Precinct meetings and felt the need to speak, they should support the Finance Committee's vote.

Keith also commented that the Association of Town Finance Committees had scheduled their next conference for May 9th in Oxford.

Peter Hargraves asked how Town Management would handle concurrent Precinct meetings at different locations. Jennifer Mullen replied that the Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager and the Finance Director would split attendance.

Jim Marnell commented that the discussion on the Coronavirus that the Board of Selectmen led at their meeting the night prior was very informative. He asked if Town Meeting would be postponed. Julian Suso indicated that decision would come from the State, but he expected a directive soon.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

None

12. ADJOURN

Dutch Drolette moved to adjourn at 7:32pm
Ron Dyer seconded
All in favor