



Billerica Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Billerica Town Hall
Room 210
7:00 PM
March 1, 2018

Finance Committee Members:

David Gagliardi, Chair	Douglas Meagher, Vice Chair	Mary K. McBride, Secretary
Doug Fogerty	Cheri Gargalianos	Patrick Logue
Rino Moriconi	John Mulloy	Philip Newfell
Michael Riley	Blake Robertson	Anthony Ventresca
Town Accountant Paul Watson, Ex-Officio		Bee Magliozzi, Recording Clerk

ATTENDANCE:

12 Committee Members present: John Mulloy late (7:12 PM), Jon Wright (Resigned 2-26-18). Clerk Bee Magliozzi was excused.

CALL TO ORDER:

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE:

The Chair led the Committee in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

MEETING AUDIO RECORDING:

The Chair informed the Committee that member Anthony Ventresca would be audio recording the meeting.

Ventresca also questioned that some departments and accounts had Budget increases that were above 2%, and the BOS had instructed there be no more than a 2% increase. Chair Gagliardi explained that the BOS can only give guidelines.

Emergency Management/Civil Defense:

Director Bill Laurendeau presented the Emergency Management Budget. There is one paid position, the full-time director. The 32 other staff members are volunteers who are members of the Billerica Auxiliary Police Department and the Billerica Citizens Emergency Response Team. They attend the Reserve Training Academy at their own expense and may become Special Police Officers after three to five years. Many end up as full-time officers in Billerica and other locations after their volunteer service.

The volunteers contribute more than 3000 hours of their time per year, patrolling designated areas on Friday nights, assisting with numerous events such as Yankee Doodle, road races, etc.

Goal for 2018 – 2019 is development of a functional Debris Management Plan to help Billerica recover after a natural disaster. Once the Plan is accepted by FEMA, Federal reimbursement for financial disasters is expedited.

The Director has created a regional approach with neighboring communities to share resources and maximize manpower.

Doug Meagher moved to recommend the Emergency Management Budget of \$25,981, seconded by Patrick Logue. Vote was unanimous, 11–0.

Fire Department:

The new Fire Chief, Robert Cole, was introduced to the members. Cole is a 23-year veteran of the Billerica Fire Department who has most recently been serving as a Deputy Chief.

There are 83 total staff members in the Fire Department, 72 online in the field. This is the same staffing as last year. The Fire Alarm Operators have settled their contract, the Firefighters have not. All but nine Firefighters have EMT certifications, and four have Paramedic certifications.

There are five fire stations in Billerica. The Town has just received the Final Report from the Risk Management and Facilities Assessment conducted over the past months, and the results are being studied. The Final Report is posted on the Town website as noted:

<http://www.town.billerica.ma.us/DocumentCenter/View/7352>.

After much discussion of many topics, Doug Meagher moved to recommend the Fire Department Budget of \$7,896,034, seconded by Patrick Logue. The vote was unanimous, 11-0.

Ambulance/Emergency Medical Services:

Police Chief Daniel Rosa and Paramedic Supervisor Joseph Devlin presented the FY 2019 Budget.

There are 16 full-time Paramedics in Billerica Emergency Medical Services. The two 24/7 ambulances plus a spare provide Advanced Life Support services to Residents, in comparison with neighboring towns which primarily offer only Basic Life Support services and are only beginning to start upgrade to ALS.

Billings for Ambulance services have been contracted out for many years to Comstar, but the vendor is changing to New England Medical Billing (NEMB). Comstar has grown to handle hundreds of communities and Billerica's servicing has suffered, hence the vendor switch. NEMB's rate is also better – 3 ½% down from 4%.

Doug Meagher moved to recommend the Ambulance Budget of \$1,658.929, seconded by Patrick Logue. The vote was unanimous, 11-0.

Police:

Chief Daniel Rosa presented the Police Budget.

There are a total of 83 staff members, including the Chief, Deputy Chief, 8 Lieutenants, 10 Sergeants, and 48 Patrolmen. There are 10 Civilian Dispatchers, four Clerks/Techs, and one Building Maintenance Craftsman. One Dispatcher is grant-funded, and two Patrolmen are grant-funded School Resource Officers. There are also one RSO each paid for by the Valley Collaborative and Shawsheen Tech. Four Patrolmen are presently attending the Academy. There are no staff members on active military duty at this point.

Member Ventresca requested the Budget for NEMLEC and Chief Rosa will get it. The Chief will also get a total for detail payments.

ALICE training is about to start up again.

After discussion and comment, Doug Meagher moved to recommend the Police Budget of \$8,169,758, seconded by Patrick Logue. The vote is pending receipt of the NEMLEC Budget by Member Ventresca. The vote was unanimous, 11-0.

Animal Control:

Police Chief Rosa presented the Animal Control Budget.

There are two full time and one part-time employees, one full timer who is paid for by the Town of Tewksbury.

Doug Meagher moved to recommend the Animal Control Budget of \$114,762, seconded by Patrick Logue. The vote was unanimous, 11-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was moved by Doug Meagher and seconded by Patrick Logue. The vote was unanimous, 11-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary K. McBride, Secretary and Acting Clerk