



Billerica Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Billerica Town Hall
Room 210
7:00 PM
March 20, 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 (7:10)	Blake Robertson	Anthony Ventresca
Town Accountant Paul Watson, Ex-Officio		Bee Magliozzi, Recording Clerk

ATTENDANCE:

11 Committee Members present: Members Patrick Logue and Doug Meagher and Clerk Bee Magliozzi were 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 reported that his recording of the May 8 meeting had been unsuccessful.

TOWN CLERK:

Town Clerk Shirley Schult presented the Town Clerk's Budget. The Budget increased 2.96% due to contractual obligations.

After some discussion, Rino Moriconi, seconded by Mary McBride, moved to recommend the Town Clerk's Budget in the amount of \$281,998. The vote was unanimous, 9-0.

ELECTIONS:

Town Clerk Schult also presented the Elections Budget. There will be three scheduled elections during this fiscal year.

There was discussion about state compensation from the state for early voting costs, which has been successful in some court cases. Schult will investigate, but at this point this is not the case for Billerica. Same-day registration was also discussed, and Schult said that was not yet the law.

After brief discussion, Moriconi, seconded by Cheri Gargalianos, moved to recommend the Elections Budget in the amount of \$61,993. The vote was 7- 2 (Ventresca, Blake Robertson) -1 (McBride).

REGISTRARS:

The Town Clerk also presented the Registrars' Budget.

After little discussion, Moriconi, seconded by McBride, moved to recommend the Registrars' Budget of \$59,218. The vote was unanimous, 10 – 1.

CONSERVATION:

Environmental Affairs Director Isabel Tourkantonis presented the Conservation Budget. The Personnel line will be reduced by \$4000 due to a longtime employee retiring and a lower salary for her replacement.

After some discussion, Moriconi, seconded by McBride, moved to recommend the Conservation Budget in the amount of \$222,815. The vote was 8-2, with Robertson and Ventresca in the minority.

TREASURER/COLLECTOR:

Town Accountant Paul Watson presented the Treasurer/Collector's Budget.

Contractual obligations account for the department's 2.69% increase.

Some discussion ensued: Paul Watson will get the number of Billerica employees covered by Middlesex Retirement. Billerica has had 9% of residents opt out of the Constellation electricity program, compared with a state average of 3%.

Moriconi, seconded by Mike Riley, moved to recommend the Treasurer/Collector Budget in the amount of \$739,214. The vote was unanimous, 10 – 0.

Accounting:

Watson also presented the Accounting Budget. The 5.74% Budget increase includes contractual obligations and a \$2000 increase in the cost of Powers & Sullivan's annual audit.

Moriconi, seconded by Riley, moved to recommend the Accounting Budget in the amount of \$302,580. The vote was unanimous, 10-0.

BOARD OF APPEAL:

Watson presented the Board of Appeal Budget. The increase of 5.87% is due to contractual obligations.

Discussion included how many cases the Board hears each year, and Clancy Main will research and report.

Moriconi, seconded by Riley, moved to recommend the Board of Appeal Budget of \$65,146. The vote was unanimous, 10-0.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

John Curran presented the Board of Selectmen Budget.

Curran will look into splitting out the costs of Town Meeting into a separate Budget, in answer to a question.

Moriconi, seconded by Riley, moved to recommend the Board of Selectmen Budget in the amount of \$113,270. The vote was 8-2 (Robertson, Ventresca).

CABLE ADVISORY:

The Town is entering into negotiations for the next ten year contract with Verizon and Infinity, and the budgeted amount is for legal services.

Moriconi, seconded by Riley, moved to recommend the Cable Advisory Budget in the amount of \$5000. The vote was unanimous, 10-0.

BUILDING:

Mark LaLumiere, Inspector of Buildings, presented the Budget. The Building Budget will increase 6.71% due to contractual obligations and \$10,000 to begin the process of scanning documents to be available online.

There was discussion about fees, which were last increased 5-6 years ago. Also discussed was a need for better enforcement of Zoning ByLaws, which would require more staffing for the department.

Moriconi, seconded by Riley, moved to recommend the Building Department Budget in the amount of \$614,000. The vote was 9-0-1 (Robertson).

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary K. McBride, Secretary and Acting Clerk

