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Billerica Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Billerica Town Hall
Room 210
7:00 PM
April 5, 2018

Finance Committee Members:

David Gagliardi, Chair	Douglas Meagher, Vice Chair	Mary K. McBride (7:04 pm)
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:

9 Committee Members Present, 2 Excused (Gargalianos, Robertson), 0 Absent.

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 Ventresca would be audio recording the meeting.

BOARD OF HEALTH:

Richard Berube, Board of Health Director, presented the proposed FY19 Board of Health Budget.

He also summarized the Board’s duties and responsibilities.

Some discussion ensued concerning an expanded explanation of duties. Some line items were discussed.

A motion to recommend the Board of Health’s Budget of \$375,145 was moved by Meagher and seconded by Riley.

The vote was 8-0-1 (McBride).

PLANNING BOARD:

Chris Riley, Planning Board Director, presented the proposed FY19 Planning Board Budget.

He also summarized the Board’s duties and responsibilities.

Some discussion ensued concerning the level of personnel in the department. Discussion concerning certain line items ensued.

A motion to recommend the Planning Board’s Budget of \$141,739 was moved by Meagher and seconded by Logue.

The vote was 8-1 (Ventresca) - 0.

WARRANT ARTICLES:

Department of Public Works Director, Abdul Alkhatib, and Town Accountant, Paul Watson, presented the following Spring Town Meeting Warrant Articles.

ARTICLE 19:

Article 19 was presented to the Finance Committee for their consideration.

The article seeks to transfer from Water Enterprise retained earnings \$41,000 to fund the purchase of a Raw Water Pump for the Treatment Plant.

Discussion ensued following the Article's review by Alkhatib and Watson regarding the balance of funds in Retained Earnings Account. Balance is \$1,389,002.

A motion to recommend Article 19 in the amount of \$41,000 was moved by Meagher and seconded by Moriconi.

The vote was 9-0-0.

ARTICLE 20:

Article 20 was presented to the Finance Committee for their consideration.

This Article seeks to transfer from Infiltration and Inflow funds \$50,000 to fund sewer manhole cover repairs.

Discussion ensued following the Article's review by Alkhatib and Watson concerning the fund balance and whether there are additional necessary repairs. Fund balance may not support this at this time which is currently \$131,000.

A motion to recommend Article 20 in the amount of \$50,000 was moved by Meagher and seconded by Moriconi.

The vote was 9-0-0.

ARTICLE 21:

Article 21 was presented to the Finance Committee for their consideration.

This Article seeks to raise and appropriate \$50,000 to fund a Street Survey and Street Acceptance Plans for un-accepted roads.

Discussion ensued following the Article's review by Alkhatib and Watson concerning whether or not to fund this article through the raise and appropriate method It was stated that other methods may be considered.

A motion to recommend Article 21 in the amount of \$50,000 was moved by Meagher and seconded by Moriconi.

The vote was 7-2 (Ventresca, Logue)-0.

ARTICLE 27:

Article 27 was presented to the Finance Committee for their consideration.

This Article seeks to borrow \$525,000 to fund the design and permitting of Phase II Waste Water Treatment Plant improvements.

Discussion ensued following the Article's review by Alkhatib and Watson concerning the loan. It was stated that the loan will be made from the Waste Water Trust Fund with a 2% interest rate.

A motion to recommend Article 27 in the amount of \$525,000 was moved by Meagher and seconded by Moriconi.

The vote was 9-0-0.

ARTICLE 28:

Article 28 was presented to the Finance Committee for their consideration.

This Article seeks to borrow \$975,000 from the Trust Fund to fund Water Treatment Plant Ozone Improvements. The interest rate will be 2%.

Discussion ensued following the Article's review by Alkhatib and Watson concerning the loan the same as Article 27.

A motion to recommend Article 29 in the amount of \$975,000 was moved by Meagher and seconded by Logue.

The vote was 9-0-0.

ARTICLE 29:

Article 29 was presented to the Finance Committee.

The Article seeks to \$2,500,000 a shortfall for Sewer Contract 39 due to the receipt bids higher than anticipated at the time of the original appropriation.

Discussion ensued concerning the reason for the short fall. It was stated that due to the high volume of work available, fewer bids came in and at higher rates due to supply and demand.

Motion by Meagher, second by McBride in the amount of \$2,500,000.

The vote was 9-0-0.

ARTICLE 34:

Article 34 was presented to the Finance Committee for their consideration.

This Article seeks to accept a list of un-accepted streets.

Discussion ensued following the Article's review by Alkhatib and Watson regarding the acceptance of Town roads. It was explained that street on this list have been recently brought up to standards and are ready for acceptance.

A motion to recommend Article 34 was moved by Meagher and seconded by McBride.

The vote was 7-2 (Ventresca, Logue)-0.

ARTICLE 35:

Article 35 was presented to the Finance Committee for their consideration.

This Article seeks to authorize the Selectmen to acquire easements necessary to complete the signalization of the intersection at Andover and Whipple Roads.

Discussion ensued following the Article's review by Alkhatib and Watson regarding funding of the project at Whipple Road and Andover Road. It was explained that the Town appropriated \$394,000 to do the project at the Fall 2017 Town Meeting.

A motion to recommend Article 35 was moved by Meagher and seconded by Logue.

The vote was 9-0-0.

ARTICLE 36:

Article 36 was presented to the Finance Committee for their consideration.

This Article seeks to authorize the Selectmen to acquire easements for a sidewalk project on Baldwin Road.

Discussion ensued following the Article's review by Alkhatib and Watson regarding the Baldwin Road project.

A motion to recommend Article 36 was moved by Meagher and seconded by Logue.

The vote was 9-0-0.

ARTICLE 37:

Article 37 was presented to the Finance Committee for their consideration.

This Article seeks to authorize the Selectmen to grant an easement to the MBTA at 70 Letchworth Ave.

Discussion ensued following the Article's review by Alkhatib and Watson regarding if this is a permanent or temporary easement. It was stated that it is permanent. It was stated that the Selectmen granted the MBTA a licensing agreement last December.

A motion to recommend Article 37 was moved by Meagher and seconded by Logue.

The vote was 7-2 (Ventresca, Logue)-0.

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE:

The Chair informed the Committee that Town Manager, John Curran, was unable to attend the meeting due to his father's illness.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting to be held April 10, 2018.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was moved by Meagher and seconded by McBride.

The vote was 9-0-0.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:04pm.

**Respectfully submitted,
Bee Magliozzi, Recording Clerk**