

BILLERICA FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
March 3, 2022

A Meeting of the Billerica Finance Committee was held on Thursday March 3, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in room 210 of the Town Hall

Present: David Gagliardi, Chairman; Doug Meagher, Vice Chairman; Mary McBride, Secretary; Donald Damon, Member; Doug Fogerty, Member; Cheri Gargalianos, Member; Rino Moriconi, Member; John Mulloy, Member; Philip Newfell, Member; John Kleschinsky, Member; Patrick Logue, Member; Sharon Healey, 2nd Associate; Paul Watson, Ex-Officio Town Accountant; and Joyce MacMillan, Recording Clerk.

Excused Absence: Kelley Sardina, 1st Associate

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman David Gagliardi called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

PRESENTATION OF FY23 BUDGET:

Presentation by John Curran, Town Manager: The committee was given a copy of the Proposed Operating Budget FY 2023 prior to the meeting. This copy can be found on the Town website.

Mr. Curran started off with explaining the budget process. Then went over revenues and what makes up the revenue sources. 72% of the revenues are levy related. The total revenue source is \$198 million. That number will change in the fall, primarily due to capital expenses. Levy growth since 2011 has been predictable and solid. Marijuana receipts will start coming in this year and projected at about \$1 million. Next, he went over the increases and decreases in the budget. Debt Service is offset by the Debt Stabilization. One of the increases is due to an addition to staff, a Human Resource Director (in Town Mgr Budget) and a Civilian Dispatch Supervisor (in Police Budget). Pensions have gone up; Billing Insurance has increased, and Health is being level funded this year. Also adding a Civilian Dispatch Supervisor and increasing the hours of the EMS (Emergency Management Services) Director. There is a Roadway Surface Rating, the average is 70% (out of 100%) and Billerica is at 68.05%. It's not the best rating but it is not bad. We are trying to reach 70% or higher. Billerica has 219 miles of roadways. Operating budget for Water is \$6.8 million and Wastewater is \$9.3 million. We take in about \$6.4 million in Wastewater fees and subsidize about \$2.9 million from the General Fund. We take in about \$5.4 million in Water fees and subsidize about \$1.4 million from the General fund.

Chairman Gagliardi opened the floor to the committee for questions or concerns. There were questions regarding the Debt Stabilization and the General Fund. Mr. Curran explained how Debt Stabilization works. Part of it consists of constantly investing. Levy

capacity helps with the Town's bond rating. Debt schedules (listed in the back of the budget book) shows all the debt and when it will fall off. There were questions regarding TIP monies and Boston Road and Middlesex Turnpike projects. There were some corrections that were pointed out. State funds being used for Middlesex Turnpike. Boston Rd and Middlesex Turnpike projects are both state projects, Chapter 90 not used for those projects. Chapter 90 funds, what is the criteria? Some of it has to do with Accepted Roadways. As Billerica Accepts more roads, the better we are for Chapter 90 funds. Is possible to use the marijuana revenues for roadways? There is \$500,000 that will be going towards roadways and \$500,000 going towards the Levy. And the estimated revenue from the marijuana is approximately a million dollars. Is Boston Road included in Chapter 90 spending? No, Boston Road is a state TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) project. As for New Growth, personal property, new construction, even just a new porch all generates count. The Levy went up 3.71% and the Budget went up 3.37%. What was the average increase in property tax last year to this year? It was about \$270. How many town employees do we currently have? 342 employees. The new HR person, will he or she be shared with the school dept? No.

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE – not subject to discussion

The next meeting will be Tuesday March 8, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT:

John Mulloy, seconded by Doug Meagher made motion to adjourn.

It was voted:

11 – In favor
0 – Opposed

Chairman David Gagliardi adjourned the meeting at 8:22 pm.

Joyce MacMillan, Recording Clerk