

BILLERICA FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 01, 2020

A meeting of the Billerica Finance Committee was held on Thursday April 1, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom Video Conferencing Communication App.

Present: David Gagliardi, Chairman, Doug Meagher, Vice Chairman, Mary McBride, Secretary, Donald Damon, Member, Patrick Logue, Member, Rino Moriconi, Member, Douglas Fogerty, Member, Philip Newfell, Member, Anthony Ventresca, Member, John Kleschinsky, 1st Associate, Cheri Gargalianos, Member, John Mulloy, Member, Kelley Sardina, 2nd Associate Member, Town Accountant, Paul Watson, Ex-Officio and Joyce MacMillan, Recording Clerk

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman David Gagliardi called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

N/A

DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS:

Participants: John Curran, Town Manager with Clancy Main, Management Analyst; Jan Hagman, Library Director; Jean Bushnell, COA Director; Abdul Alkhatib, Director of Public Works; Jeff Kalmes, Wastewater Superintendent; John McGovern, Water Superintendent; Everett (Bud) Crotty, Cemetery Superintendent; Michael Haines, Parks and Trees Superintendent; Kelley Conway, Town Engineer; and Ed Tierney, Highway Superintendent.

Handouts for the library and COA were emailed to the committee members in advance of the meeting.

Library – Jan Hagman, Director

Jan Hagman gave the committee a brief overview of the library updates. Stating that library patronage visits were up about a thousand over the previous year and Sunday is often their busiest day. The budget is not much different than the year before.

Mr. Curran went over some of the budget items that have changed. The salaries going up due to minimum wage increase, cleaning services, and water purifier system for heating system are some of the changes.

Chairman Gagliardi opened the floor to the committee for questions or concerns. There were some questions about the amount of active members; there are about 30,000 active library card members. There were some questions regarding revenue, state funding, the new passport program and the Great Deed restoration.

Doug Meagher, seconded by Mary McBride made a motion to recommend the Library budget in the amount of \$1,659,415.

A roll call vote was taken

It was voted:

Phil Newfell - Aye
Doug Fogerty – Aye
Rino Moriconi - Aye
John Mulloy – Aye
Cheri Gargalianos – Aye
Tony Ventresca – Aye

Don Damon – Aye
Patrick Logue – Aye
Mary McBride – Aye
Doug Meagher – Aye
Dave Gagliardi - Aye

Council on Aging – Jean Bushnell, Director

Chairman Gagliardi works for the COA and therefore recused himself from this portion of the meeting. Vice Chair Meagher ran this portion of the meeting.

Jean Bushnell stated they are asking for an increase of .54% (\$19,056) in this year's budget. Jean went over some stats of the age groups, genders etc. that use the COA and their services. Jean went through her power point presentation that was previously emailed to the committee.

Vice Chairman Meagher opened the floor to the committee for questions or concerns. There were some questions regarding new positions, longevity, programs in conjunction with other departments like the library, fire dept and police dept, revenue that the COA brings in, and expanding some programs.

Mary McBride, seconded by Rino Moriconi made a motion to recommend the Council on Aging budget in the amount of \$365,272.

A roll call vote was taken
It was voted:

John Kleschinsky – Aye
Phil Newfell - Aye
Doug Fogerty – Aye
Rino Moriconi - Aye
John Mulloy – Aye
Cheri Gargalianos – Aye
Tony Ventresca – Aye
Don Damon – Aye
Patrick Logue – Aye
Mary McBride – Aye
Doug Meagher – Aye

Wastewater Enterprise – Jeff Kalmes, Superintendent

Jeff Kalmes went over some of what was in the budget book and how the fire damage of last year was all covered by insurance money. He went over changes in the budget and what is happening in the wastewater day to day operations like training, programs for the school systems.

Mr. Curran went over some of the budget items that have changed. Due to the Coronavirus the shifts are split up and trying to keep everyone healthy. They spoke about the amounts of waste coming through now with the stay at home advisory.

Chairman Gagliardi opened the floor to the committee for questions or concerns. They discussed the fire, OSHA (OSHA said Billerica treatment plant was the cleanest he's seen in

33 years of working for OSHA), residents that are still not hooked up to the town sewer, social media postings and what the public can do to help keep things moving smoothly. There was also a mention of cost of chemical pricing and trucking, revenue and current rates.

Doug Meagher, seconded by Patrick Logue, made a motion to recommend the Wastewater Enterprise Budget in the amount of \$8,388,219.

A roll call vote was taken

It was voted:

Phil Newfell - Aye
Doug Fogerty – Aye
Rino Moriconi - Aye
John Mulloy – Aye
Cheri Gargalianos – Aye
Tony Ventresca – Nay
Don Damon – Aye
Patrick Logue – Aye
Mary McBride – Aye
Doug Meagher – Aye
Dave Gagliardi - Aye

Water Enterprise – John McGovern, Superintendent

Abdul Alkhatib highlighted the changes in the budget and how there are many similarities between the Wastewater and the Water budget processing. The biggest change in the budget is a lab tech position is going from part time to full time.

Chairman Gagliardi opened the floor to the committee for questions or concerns. There was some question regarding supplies and expenses, back up trucks, consortium for purchasing the treatment chemicals, there is about a dozen other towns within the consortium, hydrant repair and replacements, water flushing is postponed due to the shelter in place advisory, accumulated debt, clothing allowance and contract services and leases.

Doug Meagher, seconded by Rino Moriconi made a motion to recommend the Water Enterprise Budget in the amount of \$6,566,188.

A roll call vote was taken

It was voted:

Phil Newfell - Aye
Doug Fogerty – Aye
Rino Moriconi - Aye
John Mulloy – Aye
Cheri Gargalianos – Aye
Tony Ventresca – Nay
Don Damon – Aye
Patrick Logue – NAY
Mary McBride – Aye
Doug Meagher – Aye
Dave Gagliardi - Aye

Cemetery – Everett (Bud) Crotty

Abdul Alkhatib Stated there's really not much that has changed in the budget since last year. The changes are more in the supplies and services.

Chairman Gagliardi opened the floor to the committee for questions or concerns. There was some question regarding perpetual care, does the cemetery dept work together with the cemetery commission, meal allowance, overtime, electric line item, inmate labor.

Doug Meagher, seconded by Don Damon made a motion to recommend the Cemetery Budget in the amount of \$429,153.

A roll call vote was taken

It was voted:

Phil Newfell - Aye
Doug Fogerty – Aye
Rino Moriconi - Aye
John Mulloy – Aye
Cheri Gargalianos – Aye
Tony Ventresca – Aye
Don Damon – Aye
Patrick Logue – Aye
Mary McBride – Aye
Doug Meagher – Aye
Dave Gagliardi - Aye

Parks and Trees – Michael Haines

Abdul, Alkhatib, there is no change in labor/number of employees, Salaries are projected, there's an increase on contract services, and pretty much no other changes. Mr. Curran added how well this dept has worked out in the last year and half.

Due to a possible error on the budget, this item is postponed to the next meeting.

Engineering – Kelley Conway

Abdul Alkhatib Stated the main changes are with storm water annual permit.

Chairman Gagliardi opened the floor to the committee for questions or concerns. There was some question regarding the differences between a Jr. Civil Engineer and the Assistant Town Engineer, and Kelley Conway explained the Assistant also had a Professional Engineer (P.E.) certification. There was also discussion about contract services, and the split of storm water and engineering services other than storm water. There was also discussion of licenses and incentives.

Doug Meagher, seconded by Mary McBride made a motion to recommend the Engineering Budget in the amount of \$788,163.

A roll call vote was taken

It was voted:

Phil Newfell - Aye
Doug Fogerty – Aye

Rino Moriconi - Aye
John Mulloy – Aye
Cheri Gargalianos – Aye
Tony Ventresca – Aye
Don Damon – Aye
Patrick Logue – Aye
Mary McBride – Aye
Doug Meagher – Aye
Dave Gagliardi - Aye

Highway – Ed Tierney

Abdul Alkhatib stated there are a couple of changes. Brush cutting is being moved from Parks & Trees into Highway. Brush cutting requires a G4 license. There is an increase for snow and ice as well.

Chairman Gagliardi opened the floor to the committee for questions or concerns. Potholes and snow and ice removal were discussed.

Doug Meagher, seconded by Patrick Logue made a motion to recommend the Highway Budget in the amount of \$2,372,035.

A roll call vote was taken
It was voted:

Phil Newfell - Aye
Doug Fogerty – Aye
Rino Moriconi - Aye
John Mulloy – Aye
Cheri Gargalianos – Aye
Tony Ventresca – Aye
Don Damon – Aye
Patrick Logue – Aye
Mary McBride – Aye
Doug Meagher – Aye
Dave Gagliardi – Aye

Mary McBride is having issues with her computer; she has exited the meeting.

DPW Administration – Abdul Alkhatib

Abdul Alkhatib Stated there’s only one change. Funds were added, \$475 for CDL required drug testing and physicals.

Chairman Gagliardi opened the floor to the committee for questions or concerns. There was some question regarding seasonal part time positions and when are these seasonal personnel are working.

Doug Meagher, seconded by Rino Moriconi made a motion to recommend the DPW Administration Budget in the amount of \$999,059.

A roll call vote was taken

It was voted:

Phil Newfell - Aye
Doug Fogerty – Aye
Rino Moriconi - Aye
John Mulloy – Aye
Cheri Gargalianos – Aye
Tony Ventresca – Aye
Don Damon – Aye
Patrick Logue – Aye
John Kleschinsky – Aye
Doug Meagher – Aye
Dave Gagliardi – Aye

Solid Waste – Abdul Alkhatib

Abdul Alkhatib stated there is a significant increase this year in the Wheelabrator contract. The disposal contract expired June 30. A new contract was negotiated for a 5 year agreement beginning July 1.

Chairman Gagliardi opened the floor to the committee for questions or concerns. The committee asked about the contamination charges, where the solid waste goes, Hazardous Waste Day, Recycling, Disposing vs Recycling, Delays in pickup,

Mary McBride has rejoined the meeting.

Doug Meagher, seconded by Mary McBride made a motion to recommend the Highway Budget in the amount of \$3,359,776.

A roll call vote was taken

It was voted:

Phil Newfell - Aye
Doug Fogerty – Aye
Rino Moriconi - Aye
John Mulloy – Aye
Cheri Gargalianos – Aye
Tony Ventresca – Aye
Don Damon – Aye
Patrick Logue – Aye
John Kleschinsky – Aye
Doug Meagher – Aye
Dave Gagliardi – Aye

REVIEW OF MARCH 10, 2020 MINUTES:

Doug Meagher, seconded by Patrick Logue made a motion to accept the minutes of March 10, 2020.

A roll call vote was taken

It was voted:

Phil Newfell - Aye
Doug Fogerty – Aye
Rino Moriconi - Aye
John Mulloy – Aye

Cheri Gargalianos – Abstained
Tony Ventresca – Aye
Don Damon – Aye
Patrick Logue – Aye
Mary McBride – Aye
Doug Meagher – Aye
Dave Gagliardi - Aye

Next Finance Committee Meeting Tuesday April 7, 2020

ADJOURNMENT:

Doug Meagher, seconded by Doug Fogerty made motion to adjourn.

A roll call vote was taken

It was voted:

Phil Newfell - Aye
Doug Fogerty – Aye
Rino Moriconi - Aye
John Mulloy – Aye
Cheri Gargalianos – Aye
Tony Ventresca – Aye
Don Damon – Aye
Patrick Logue – Aye
Mary McBride – Aye
Doug Meagher – Aye
Dave Gagliardi - Aye

Chairman David Gagliardi adjourned the meeting at 9:08 pm.

Joyce MacMillan, Recording Clerk