



Billerica Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Billerica Town Hall
365 Boston Road, Room 210
Billerica, Massachusetts 01821

4 April 2019 Meeting

Finance Committee Members:

David Gagliardi, Chair
John Kleschinsky, 1st Associate
Cheri Gargalianos
Scott Morris, 2nd Associate

Douglas Meagher, Vice Chair
Donald Damon
Patrick Logue
John Mulloy
Anthony Ventresca

Mary K. McBride, Secretary
Douglas Fogerty
Rino Moriconi
Philip Newfell

Town Accountant Paul Watson, Ex-Officio

Bee Magliozzi, Recording Clerk

ATTENDANCE:

Nine (9) Committee Members Present;

Absent:

Cheri Gargalianos

Excused:

Mary K. McBride

Douglas Meagher

Scott Morris

Clerk Bee Magliozzi was also excused.

Guests:

John Curran

Paul Watson

Abdul Alkhatib

Town Manager

Town Accountant

Town DPW Director

CALL TO ORDER:

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

N/A

MEETING AUDIO RECORDING:

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

ARTICLE 27

Town Manager John Curran and DPW Director Abdul Alkhatib presented the Article. Documentation was provided to the FinCom by the DPW Director.

Limited discussion on this Warrant Article; It will be a 20 year bond.

It was stated that if Town went to open market, instead of the Clean Water Trust, the interest rates would be higher

Mr. Curran stated that the Town's debt service is approximately \$70 – 80 million, minus school-related debt.

Rino Moriconi moved to recommend this Article in the amount of \$9,005,000, seconded by Anthony Ventresca. The vote was unanimous, 9-0-0.

ARTICLE 28

Documentation was provided to the FinCom by the Town Manager and DPW Director.

Some discussion on this ozone concerns in Warrant Article; it will be a 20 year bond. Once installed and completed, project will result in some savings in ozone-related areas.

The life of the requested items is approximately 12 – 15 years.

Moriconi moved to recommend this Article in the amount of \$10,025,400, seconded by Ventresca. The vote was unanimous, 9-0-0.

ARTICLE 29

This Warrant Article was tabled until Thursday 11 April 2019 FinCom meeting; pending labor contracts and available money.

Documentation was provided to FinCom by the DPW Director.

ARTICLE 30

Documentation was provided to FinCom by the DPW Director.

Some discussion on Warrant Article. The current balance within the Inflow Infiltration Funds is \$422,612.

Moriconi moved to recommend this Article in the amount of \$237,000; seconded by Donald Damon. The vote was unanimous, 9-0-0.

ARTICLE 36

This a

Documentation was provided to FinCom by the DPW Director.

Though this Warrant Article states that the \$1,000,000 will be borrowed, the intent is to utilize available "Free Cash (\$320,000 will probably be required)."

Town of Billerica has approximately 4,000 street lights; the Green Communities Grant will help pay for a required streetlight audit. The audit will determine what locations will require more or less lighting.

The municipality "must have an appropriation to cover the total cost of the project," in order to participate with the propose Grants (refer to aforementioned "Article 36 Explanation.").

Much discussion concerning the actual "payback" time. The municipality will own the street lights. Once Town has ownership of street lights, a maintenance contract will be established; approximate annual cost: \$50,000 – 100,000.

Paul Watson discussed the "payback" time, along with the utilization of solar panel credits to the current National Grid bill. In the future, after municipality has maxed out on its solar credits, those credits will be transferred to the School Department side.

Moriconi moved to recommend this Article in the amount of \$1,000,000; seconded by Patrick Logue. The vote was unanimous, 9-0-0.

ARTICLE 42

Documentation was provided to FinCom by the DPW Director.

This Article concerns the property that is situated at 464 Middlesex Turnpike and Francis Road. Many years ago, the town accepted this situation. Currently, property owner is in the process of selling property; municipality seeking easement on sidewalk, only. Nota Bene: Article 42's explanation states that the intent is "to modify the right of way to include sidewalk and other structures." The Town wants only the sidewalk. John Curran stated that the current explanation will be modified; expunging the "other structures."

Municipality has discussed the matter with the property owner; in agreement about wall, sidewalk and bus stop bungalow.

Moriconi moved to recommend this Article in the amount of \$1,000,000; seconded by Logue. The vote was unanimous, 9-0-0.

ARTICLE 43

According to John Curran, this Warrant Article will be withdrawn. The Board of Selectmen will act upon this matter.

ARTICLE 22

Moriconi moved to recommend this Article in the amount of \$6,276,034; seconded by Logue. The vote was, 5-3-1. NAYS: A. Ventresca; D. Damon & P. Logue.
ABSTAIN: D. Fogerty.

Background information: **[#640 Water Enterprise Fund Budget 03/12/19 meeting:](#)**

DPW Director Alkhatib and Superintendent John McGovern presented the Water Enterprise Budget.

94% of the new water meters have been installed. About 400 are scheduled for installation and the 400 remaining have issues, such as being hard to read and other reasons.

Like other communities, Billerica continues to have some water main breaks, mostly where ductile iron was used in the past. The majority of water main breaks are unexplained.

One water meter reader position was eliminated, and the former reader became a filter operator.

Hydrants cost about \$1700 each, and installation is ongoing and being done in-house.

After a moderate amount of discussion, Doug Meagher moved to recommend the Water Enterprise Fund Budget in the amount of **\$6,276,034**. The vote was 8-3, with Damon, Logue, and Ventresca voted in the negative for this Enterprise Budget.

ARTICLE 23

Moriconi moved to recommend this Article in the amount of \$6,276,034; seconded by Patrick Logue. The vote was 6-3-0. NAYS: A. Ventresca; D. Damon & P. Logue.

Background information: **#670 Wastewater Enterprise Fund Budget 03/12/19 meeting:**

DPW Director Alkhatib and Superintendent Jeff Kalmes presented the Wastewater Enterprise Budget.

The Budget will be increasing by 12.8%, with Supplies and Expenses increases primarily due to chemical prices (+ \$121,000), and lab supplies (+ \$24,000), despite using consortium pricing.

Contract Services/Leases are increasing as well, especially sludge hauling (+\$85,815). Sludge hauling is a mandated process, and there are fewer places to use. Four 40 foot trucks must be hauled out weekly. Maintenance, repair and replacement has increased about \$43,000, and includes tearing up 1988 hot top, maintaining catch basins, and constructing fencing around the WWTP and pumping stations.

After discussion, Doug Meagher moved to recommend the Wastewater Enterprise Fund Budget in the amount of **\$ 8,641,118**, seconded by Rino Moriconi. The vote was 8-3, with Damon, Logue, and Ventresca.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS LIAISON REPORTS:

N/A

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE:

N/A

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting to be held on Tuesday: 9 April 2019 at 7:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was moved by Rino Moriconi; seconded by Patrick Logue.

The vote was 9-0-0.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8:32 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Philip J. Newfell, Brevet Clerk