

**BILLERICA FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**May 05, 2020**

A meeting of the Billerica Finance Committee was held on Thursday May 05, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom Video Conferencing Communication App.

Present: David Gagliardi, Chairman; Douglas Meagher, Vice Chairman; Mary McBride, Secretary; Donald Damon, Member; Patrick Logue, Member; Rino Moriconi, Member; Douglas Fogerty, Member; John Mulloy, Member; Philip Newfell, Member; Anthony Ventresca, Member; Cheri Gargalianos, Member; John Kleschinsky, 1<sup>st</sup> Associate; , Kelley Sardina, 2<sup>nd</sup> Associate; 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

**WARRANT ARTICLES:**

Participants: John Curran, Town Manager; Clancy Main, Management Analyst.

**Article 4 Fund Collective Bargaining – IUPE Clerical Unit – John Curran**

John Curran – The COLA for IUPE is 2.3% effective July 1, 2020, 2.1% effective July 1, 2021 and 2.1% effective July 1, 2022. The Probationary period for new employees will be 180 days, from 120 days. Clerical staff who also take Minutes for their Boards will be paid at 1.5 times their usual wage for a four-hour minimum, in either money or comp. Five positions will be upgraded as well, based on the recent salary study. There are about 40 or more people covered by this contract.

Chairman Gagliardi opened the floor to the committee for questions or concerns. The committee wanted to know if this was being funded through the budget or warrant article? This one is in the Budget. How is it being funded and what are the amounts? Funded within the Budget for FY21, in the amount of \$41k. \$38k for both FY22 and FY23.

Doug Meagher, seconded by Rino Moriconi made a motion to recommend Article 4 as printed in the preliminary warrant, pending opinion of Town Counsel.

A roll call vote was taken  
It was voted (9-1-1):

Cheri Gargalianos – Aye  
John Mulloy – Aye  
Doug Meagher – Aye  
Don Damon – Abstained  
Patrick Logue – Aye  
Phil Newfell - Aye  
Tony Ventresca – Nay

Mary McBride – Aye  
Doug Fogerty – Aye  
Rino Moriconi - Aye  
Dave Gagliardi – Aye

**Article 5 Fund Collective Bargaining – IAFF Firefighters – John Curran**

John Curran – The COLA for IUPE is 2.3% effective July 1, 2020, 2.1% effective July 1, 2021 and 2.1% effective July 1, 2022. The FY21 increase is in the Budget, at \$157k. FY22 is \$147k, FY23 is \$150k.

The rate of pay for fire watch duty was increased from \$43/hour to \$59/hour for private details, the OT amount of a top step Lieutenant. This has no financial impact to the Town. The Town-paid rate for fire watch details increases from \$40/hour to \$50/hour, the OT rate for the top step Firefighter. Educational incentives have not been adjusted for a long time, the base pay rates have gone up dependent upon the degree earned and Specialty Assignment Pay has also been adjusted.

Chairman Gagliardi opened the floor to the committee for questions or concerns. What is considered a specialty position? There are a few, a couple examples are a mechanic, fire inspector, and a person to take care of budget items.

Doug Meagher, seconded by Mary McBride made a motion to recommend Article 5 as printed in the preliminary warrant, pending opinion of Town Counsel.

A roll call vote was taken  
It was voted (6 – 5):

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

**Article 6 Fund Collective Bargaining – SEIU Local 888 – John Curran**

John Curran - This is the Department Heads Union – The COLA for IUPE is 2.3% effective July 1, 2020, 2.1% effective July 1, 2021 and 2.1% effective July 1, 2022. The FY21 increase is \$60k, which will be in the Warrant Article. FY22 is \$66k, FY23 is \$67k.

Junior Civil Engineers will be added to the Department Heads union as Project Manager Engineers. They were previously in the DPW contract. Some language regarding flex time is being deleted. Probation period is being changed from 120 to 180 days, and there were some salary upgrades made in accordance with the recent salary study.

Chairman Gagliardi opened the floor to the committee for questions or concerns. There were some questions regarding the mileage reimbursement.

Doug Meagher, seconded by Mary McBride made a motion to recommend Article 6 in the amount of \$60,000 as printed in the preliminary warrant, pending opinion of Town Counsel.

A roll call vote was taken  
It was voted (9 – 2):

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

**Article 7 Fund Collective Bargaining – IAFF Civilian Alarm – John Curran**

John Curran - The COLA for IUPE is 2.3% effective July 1, 2020, 2.1% effective July 1, 2021 and 2.1% effective July 1, 2022. The FY 21 increase is \$6.5k, which is in the Warrant Article, FY22 and FY23 are each \$6.0k.

Chairman Gagliardi opened the floor to the committee for questions or concerns. How is it being funded? Funded by raise and appropriate.

Doug Meagher, seconded by Don Damon made a motion to recommend Article 7 in the amount of \$6500 as printed in the preliminary warrant, pending opinion of Town Counsel.

A roll call vote was taken  
It was voted (10 – 1):

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

**Article 14 Water Enterprise Budget – John Curran**

John Curran – The Water Enterprise Budget amount is \$6,566,188. This budget was thoroughly reviewed during the Budget process.

Chairman Gagliardi opened the floor to the committee for questions or concerns. No questions at this time.

Doug Meagher, seconded by Mary McBride made a motion to recommend Article 14 as printed in the preliminary warrant, pending opinion of Town Counsel.

A roll call vote was taken

It was voted (9 – 2):

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

**Article 15 WasteWater Enterprise Budget – John Curran**

John Curran - The WasteWater Enterprise Budget amount is \$8,388,219. This budget was thoroughly reviewed during the Budget process.

Chairman Gagliardi opened the floor to the committee for questions or concerns. No questions at this time.

Doug Meagher, seconded by Patrick Logue made a motion to recommend article 15 as printed in the preliminary warrant, pending opinion of Town Counsel.

A roll call vote was taken

It was voted (9 – 2):

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

**Article 18 Nashua Road Sidewalk – John Curran**

John Curran – Would like to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$128,610 from the sidewalk mitigation proceeds to be used for sidewalk improvements on Nashua Road.

Chairman Gagliardi opened the floor to the committee for questions or concerns. The Committee had questions regarding the increase in sidewalk up keep and snow removal, would they be concrete, how much is in the sidewalk fund, what portion of Nashua Road is to be worked on, is there a big demand for sidewalks on Nashua Road, and isn't Nashua a state roadway, should the state be doing this. Nashua Road is not a state road.

Doug Meagher, seconded by Mary McBride made a motion to recommend article 18 in the amount of \$128,610 as printed in the preliminary warrant, pending opinion of Town Counsel.

A roll call vote was taken

It was voted (10-1):

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

**Article 22 Howe School Remodel and Addition – John Curran**

John Curran – The total cost of the Howe School renovation is \$7.461 million (rounded to \$7.5 million in the warrant), of which \$4.9 million would be from CPC funds, balance as noted below. The town would bond the project, and the note would be paid back via the sources listed below.

CPC Debt	\$4.9m over 30 years
BATV Lease	\$1.6m over 30 years
BATV Surplus	\$443k over 30 years
Town Capital Grant	\$468k over 30 years

Chairman Gagliardi opened the floor to the committee for questions or concerns. The committee wanted to know how much the town would be paying, how would CPC and BATV be financing. The CPC will be paying out of the CPC funds annually over a 30 year period. BATV will be paying via a surplus and through their 30 year lease. CPC has not had their public hearing yet, so this has not been voted on by CPC yet. Doesn't the Howe School have to be used for educational purpose, the answer to that was BATV does provide an education service to the school system. We heard there is attempted legislation at the federal level, the FCC to start taking money that usually the communities

would give to their local cable access, so we know where that stands? They are trying to redefine what qualifies as a franchise fee; they're trying to pull it out so the cities and towns don't get that money. Also, this is only from the CPC's historical portion, CPC still has funds for open space/recreation, housing, etc.

Doug Meagher, seconded by Don Damon made a motion to recommend article 22 in the amount of \$7.5 million as printed in the preliminary warrant, pending opinion of Town Counsel.

A roll call vote was taken  
It was voted (6 – 5):

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

**Article 23 Peggy Hannon Rizza Park and Recreation Complex – John Curran**

John Curran – This article is to see if the town will appropriate \$10 million, to pay the costs of designing, constructing, remodeling and equipping the PHR Complex. Mr. Curran explained this plan would bring this space up to date, with a greater range of uses for different sports.

CPC Debt \$5m over 30 years  
Free Cash \$3m  
Town Debt \$2m over 30 years

CPC and/or Town Debt can be paid off early.

Chairman Gagliardi opened the floor to the committee for questions or concerns. Do we know the amount of free cash yet? (No, Certified Free Cash cannot be calculated until after the end of the fiscal year, and after the Town Audit. We usually get this amount in October in a normal year.) Not sure yet, but in recent years it has been around \$6 to 7 million. The town is bonding \$10 million and paying it down with CPC funds, Town debt and free cash. Do we know about how much of free cash will be put towards this each year? It might be a \$1 million a year over the next 3 years, see information above. Can the state say no to any of the free cash? (No, it is the Town's money once audited.)

Doug Meagher, seconded by Mary McBride made a motion to recommend article 23 in the amount of \$10 million as printed in the preliminary warrant, pending opinion of Town Counsel.

A roll call vote was taken  
It was voted (7 – 4):

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

**MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE – not subject to discussion**

Tony had a question regarding the revolving funds and would like to have that placed on the next meeting agenda

Next Meeting date is May 12, 2020 – Advertised Public Hearing

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Doug Meagher, seconded by Don Damon made a motion to adjourn.

A roll call vote was taken

It was voted unanimously, 11-0:

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

Chairman David Gagliardi adjourned the meeting at 7:51 pm.

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Joyce MacMillan, Recording Clerk