

BILLERICA FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
May 21, 2020

A Meeting of the Billerica Finance Committee was held on Thursday May 21, 2020 at 6:30 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, 1st Associate; Kelley Sardina, 2nd Associate; Town Accountant Paul Watson, Ex-Officio; and Joyce MacMillan, Recording Clerk

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman David Gagliardi called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

N/A

WARRANT ARTICLES:

Participants: John Curran, Town Manager; Clancy Main, Management Analyst; Tim Piwowar, Superintendent of Schools; Jill Geiser, Asst. Superintendent of Schools; Robin Hulsoor, Director of Finance and Operations; and George McCormack, Asst. Business Administrator/Rink Manager

Article 3 Budget Transfer for FY20 Items – Paul Watson

John Curran – This article is to see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds in the sum of \$110,000 from Worker Compensation to Building Insurance and Medicare Tax.

Chairman Gagliardi opened the floor to the committee for questions or concerns. There were just a couple of questions, why so much was left in Workers Comp and why so far off with the Medicare Tax? Mr. Watson explained that the Workers Comp is a premium based program run through the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Assn. (MIIA) and it runs on a 3 year basis. The premiums are based on a 3 year average. We are on the 3rd year which has been very good.

Doug Meagher, seconded by Don Damon made a motion to recommend Article 3 as printed in the warrant.

A roll call vote was taken
It was voted 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

Article 8, 9, 10 & 11 – Town Contracts - John Curran

John Curran – These contracts will not be settled before Town Meeting.

Doug Meagher, seconded by Don Damon made a motion to dismiss Articles 8, 9, 10 & 11.

A roll call vote was taken
It was voted 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

Article 29 Purchase Property at 367 Boston Rd – John Curran

John Curran – This article was for purchasing property next to Town Hall for parking. However, it looks like they may not have an answer on this prior to Town Meeting. This will go on the Warrant as “recommendation reserved”.

Article 32 Donation of Land on Glad Valley Drive – John Curran

Chairman Gagliardi sent a copy of an email from Rich Scanlon Town Assessor in regards to this land donation. The committee did discuss the donation at their last meeting. There is still a need to verify there is no conflicting wording between the donation letter and the Warrant Article.

Doug Meagher, seconded by Rino Moriconi made a motion to recommend Article 32 as amended to reflect the emails (that are public record) from Rich Scanlon Chief Assessor and the current owner of the property, identifying the immediate use and future use of the property and upon receipt of letter from attorney stating such.

A roll call vote was taken
It was voted 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

BUDGET:

Billerica Public Schools budget presentation by Tim Piwowar – Tim presented the committee with a PowerPoint presentation and went over in detail for the committee. A copy of this presentation can be found at <http://www.billericak12.com> in the Finance and Operations section.

Chairman Gagliardi opened the floor to the committee for questions or concerns. There were lots of questions, concerns and a lengthy discussion ranging from Student Opportunity Act (SOA) to Grants to salary classifications to contingency plans to state revenues, etc. Also what amount is paid by Chapter 70 funds? That amount was \$19,348,854 in FY20, and has not yet been determined in FY21. Mr. Piwowar and his team answered everyone’s questions.

Article 12 School Cafeteria Contract – Tim Piwowar

Tim Piwowar – This article is in active negotiations and cannot be voted on at this time. This will go on the Warrant as “recommendation reserved”.

Article 13 Town and School Budget – John Curran and Tim Piwowar

Tim Piwowar – This article is in active negotiations and cannot be voted on at this time, the recommendation at this time is to place it on reserve.

Doug Meagher, seconded by Mary McBride made a motion to recommend the public school budget in the amount of \$67,353,216.

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

Doug Meagher, seconded by Mary McBride made a motion to recommend the Town School Budget in the amount of \$160,018,238.

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

After all the votes were taken, Darlene Torre from the School Committee asked to be able to speak. She asked Mr. Ventresca to reconsider his vote. Mr. Ventresca stated his votes have been consistent, he feels the town is looking at some serious short falls and people are not taking it serious enough.

REVIEW OF MINUTES:
May 12, 2020 Minutes

Doug Meagher, seconded by Patrick Logue made a motion to approve the May 12, 2020 minutes.

A roll call vote was taken
It was voted 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

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE – not subject to discussion

Next Meeting date is June 4, 2020

Patrick Logue wanted to remind everyone that Monday is Memorial Day, so please remember and celebrate the people that gave up their lives for our freedom.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

A roll call vote was taken

It was voted 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 8:36 pm.

Joyce MacMillan, Recording Clerk