

BILLERICA FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
September 1, 2022

A Public Meeting of the Billerica Finance Committee was held on Thursday September 1, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in room 210 of the Town Hall.

Present: David Gagliardi, Chairman; John Mulloy, Vice Chairman; Mary McBride, Secretary; Donald Damon, Member; Sharon Healey, Member; Patrick Logue, Member; Larry Norman, Member; Brian Dorrington, 2nd Associate; Doug Fogerty, Member; Phil Newfell, Member; Darlene Torre, Member; and Paul Watson, Ex-Officio Town Accountant.

Excused: Kelley Sardina, 1st Associate; Brian Dorrington, 2nd Associate; Joyce MacMillan, Recording Clerk.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Dave Gagliardi called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

WARRANT ARTICLES:

Article 22 - To Fund the Purchase of a New Fire Truck

Mr. Curran and Chief Cole presented information about the purchase of a new pumper truck. The new truck would replace a 1995 reserve vehicle with 11,431 hours and 126,723 miles, and it would become the front-line piece at an outlying station.

It will take about two years to receive the new truck, which would be paid for with Free Cash, once certified. The \$750,000 estimated price includes the truck and related equipment. The item is in the FY23 Capital Plan at \$650,000, but that price has risen to a base of \$709,306 plus costs for necessary accessories. It was noted that all of the fire engine fleet is kept under cover.

Vice Chairman John Mulloy, seconded by Donald Damon, moved to recommend the article.

It was voted unanimously:

11 – In favor
0 – Opposed

Article 23 – To Fund a Structural Assessment of the North Billerica Fire Station \$25,000

Mr. Curran and Chief Cole presented the information. In the 2018 Facilities Study of all fire stations North Billerica was noted as showing significant wear of the concrete floors, and the exterior wall, floor and roof were rated as extremely poor. This station should have been done before Pinehurst, but Pinehurst had other issues

that caused it to move ahead on the plan. The North Billerica station needs a structural evaluation in order to decide how to proceed. There was some discussion about the wisdom of spending \$25,000 for a structural study rather than building a new building. Mr. Curran explained that the 2018 study of all the stations was a matrix and structural inspection was not done. His opinion is that the investment of \$25,000 to determine exactly what needs to be done is a more prudent expenditure.

After discussion, John Mulloy, seconded by Donald Damon, moved to recommend the article.

It was voted: 10 – In favor
1 – Opposed

Norman

Article 34 – To Establish a Permanent Town Meeting Electronic Voting Committee (Petitioner Article)

Chair of the committee Kevin Conway presented this Article. He explained that the present temporary committee was formed as electronic voting was being installed, and it has become clear that it should be made permanent.

After discussion, John Mulloy, seconded by Mary McBride, moved to recommend the article.

It was voted unanimously: 11 – In favor
0 – Opposed

Article 33 – To Transfer from Free Cash \$1,500,000 from General Fund Free Cash to Reduce the FY2023 Tax Levy (Petitioner Article)

Mike Rosa submitted this Petitioner Article asking to give some money back to residential taxpayers in light of the “historically high cost of living”. After much discussion, including clarification that any such reduction would also apply to businesses, John Mulloy, seconded by Patrick Logue, moved to recommend the article.

It was voted: 4 – In favor
Damon, Logue, Mulloy, Torre
7 – Opposed

Article 1 – Bowers Fund Appointments

The Bowers Fund committee recommended reappointing John Conway to a new five-year term, expiring in 2027, and Rino Moriconi to finish the unexpired term of the late Eleanor Shea, with expires in 2023.

John Mulloy, seconded by Mary McBride, move to recommend the article.

It was voted: 10 – In favor
1 – Abstain

Logue

Minutes:

Minutes from July 5, 2022 were moved by John Mulloy, seconded by Larry Norman.

It was voted unanimously: 11 – In favor
0 – Opposed

Amended minutes from August 9, 2022 were moved by John Mulloy, seconded by Larry Norman.

It was voted unanimously: 11 – In favor
0 – Opposed

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE – not subject to discussion

The next meeting dates are September 27 & 29, 2022

ADJOURNMENT:

Larry Norman, seconded by Patrick Logue made a motion to adjourn.

It was voted: 7 – In favor
0 – Opposed

Vice Chairman John Mulloy adjourned the meeting at 8:36 pm.

Mary K. McBride, Secretary