January 14th, 2019

Finance Committee Meeting

Present: Gordon Gladstone, Patricia-Lee Achorn, Ira Miller, William Brack, Edward Phillips, Hanna Switlekowski, Arnold Cohen, Daniel Lewenberg, Anja Bernier and Anil Ramoju

Absent: Charles Goodman

# Town Clerk FY2020 Budget – Marlene Chused

Marlene Chused, Town Clerk discussed the Town Clerk budget.

* Salaries have gone up for $2,368.00.
* Total revenue as of December from online dog registration is $51,250.75.
* Requesting $117,067 from historical preservation to restore all of the books in the vault.
* Everything else budget wise is level funded.

Marlene Chused, Town Clerk discussed upcoming Elections and possible budget updates.

* Special Town Meeting to be held on November 4th, 2019.
* Planned election to be held on November 19th, 2019, which requires a vote and a debt exclusion override question.
* If an election occurs, the budget will increase by $10,000, which includes ballots, equipment and salaries.
* In March 2020 there will be a presidential primary.
* No mandate in the law currently for early voting, but if added another $10,000 will be added to the budget.
* Two grants were received, $1,700.00 from the commonwealth and $6,758.00 for early voting.

# Library FY2020 Budget – Lee Ann Amend and Library Trustees

Lee Ann Amend, Library Director, provided the Library FY2020 budget.

* Salary increases due to contractual increases.
* Electricity increase of $2,000.00 due to the cost of everything rising.
* $1,500.00 taken off to offset utility.
* Additional $5,000.00 requested for grounds, for a total of $23,500.00.
* Telephone savings of $300.00.
* Level funded technology, legal and postage, travel, professional development and office supplies.
* OCLN dues have increased by 11.78%.
* Network fees for 2020 up to $42,200.00.

# Library Warrant Article – Lee Ann Amend and Library Trustees

Lee Ann Amend, Library Director, discussed the Library warrant article and updates.

* Total cost requested is $17,750,528.00 with a reimbursement of $7,485,943.00 in grants.
* $120,000.00 has been donated thus far with an overall goal of $1 million.
* A 2/3 vote is required at town meeting followed by a question at the May 21st, 2019 election.
* The estimate will be updated to reflect inflation.
* Lee Ann wrote a library disaster plan to both have and to receive more state and federal grants.

Krishan Gupta, Finance Director, discussed the potential impact on property taxes.

* Based on current existing debt and potential borrowing for both the library and high school the average tax bill will be around $14,000.00 in 2026.
* Town hall is already factored in the numbers.
* No big projects in foreseeable future besides these two projects.
* Property tax numbers will change according to profit made by Four Daughters and Sharon Gallery.

# Review Finance Committee Sector FY2020 Budgets – Krishan Gupta

Krishan Gupta, shared updates to the Finance Committee sector FY2020 budget.

* The moderator’s budget is unchanged.
* Decrease of $1,000.00 for the Finance Committee in contract services.
* 3.15% increase for Personnel board.
* Finance Committee budget is over by about $17,000.00.

# Review Preliminary List of ATM Articles - Fred Turkington

Fred Turkington, Town Administrator, shared the following preliminary list of ATM articles.

1. Appoint Finance Committee Members and Nominating Committee of the Finance Committee Members.
2. Act on Reports.
3. Sharon Friends School Fund Records and Appointments.
4. Personnel By-Law.
5. FY2020 Budget and Compensation of Elected Officials.
6. Capital Outlay.
7. Community Preservation Act Annual Funding and Projects.
8. Norfolk County Retirement Annual Assessment.
9. Unemployment Fund.
10. Funding Other Post-Employment Benefits (O.P.E.B.) Trust Fund.
11. Funding Assessors Inspection Services.
12. Revolving Fund Authorizations.
13. Property Tax Exemptions.
14. Annual Audit Appropriation.
15. Accept provisions of MGL Chapter 48, Section 58E (firefighter residency).
16. Citizen Petition- banning plastic bags.
17. Roadway layout and abandonment for Old Wolomolopoag Street.
18. Rescission of authorized unissued debt
19. Funding article for the new library ($7,485,943.00)
20. Change Board of Selectman to Select Board.
21. Amend Board of Health regulations to prohibit sale of vaping products to persons under 21 years of age.

# Liaison Updates:

## Sharon Schools - Bill Brack

No update at this time. A meeting will be held next week.

* 1. **Library – Hanna Switlekowski**

No update at this time.

* 1. **Planning Board – Arnie Cohen**

They are still working on a Master plan.

* 1. **Standing Building Committee – Gordon Gladstone**

Gordon Gladstone provided an update with the Standing Building Committee.

* Town hall is going up. Building has been wrapped and is getting heated.
* The slab is being poured on January 15th, 2019 beginning at 6:00 am.
* On March 21st, 2019 the architect for the High School will be informed on what the preferred option is by the district.

# Documents Distributed Since the Last Meeting

## Library Article drafts

* 1. **Library Cost Estimates**
  2. **Finance Committee Sector FY2020 Budgets**
  3. **Response to MSBA Comments**
  4. **Library cost estimates**
  5. **Library time line**
  6. **Special town meeting draft schedule**

# Minutes to be voted: December 17th, 2018

**MOTION:** by Gordon Gladstone to approve the December 17th, 2018 minutes **SECONDED:** by Anja Bernier **VOTED:** 10-0-1. William Brack abstained.

# Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair in 48 hours

* A citizen posted on Sharon what’s up that they were impressed by the VisGov website.
* Ira Miller will do a VisGov brief at the middle school on January 28th, 2019.
* Capital Outlay tour will happen on January 26th, 2019.

# Adjournment

**MOTION:** by Hanna Switlekowski to adjourn **SECONDED:** by Anja Bernier **VOTED:** 10-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.