

The Wilbraham Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
Town Hall
February 24, 2016
7:00 p.m.

Present: Dan Miles, Walt Damon, John Guzzo, Anna Levine, Nancy Piccin,
Carolyn Brennan, Mike Mannix

Absent: Todd Luzi

Also present: Town Accountant Nancy Johnson, Town Treasurer/Collector Tom Sullivan, Town
Administrator Nick Breault

Open Forum

Dan Miles initiated a discussion regarding the School District proposed level service budget for FY17. The total requested preliminary assessment due from the Town is \$24,000,840.

- In FY2016, the town of Wilbraham received an additional one-time funding of \$360,000 from renting out Memorial School. The Town gave HWRSD this money as a one-time non-recurring payment. The proposed school budget has included this \$360,000 as a recurring payment, resulting in an increase to the assessment from FY16 to FY17 of \$912,804, or approx. 4.25%. Without the \$360,000.00, the increase would be \$535,004.00, or approx. 2.5%.
- Both Blue Cross Blue Shield and Health New England informed the School Committee that they will be going up on their rates. Potentially 20% for BCBS and 8% for HNE. Worst case scenario for the School would be an additional cost of \$350,000. This figure is NOT currently in the school's FY17 budget.
- HWRSD will use \$650,000 from the Excess and Deficiency Fund to help meet proposed total budget.

Reserve Fund Transfer

Sealer of Weight and Measures Sue Petzold has requested a reserve fund transfer of \$550. The breakdown is \$250 for travel/mileage and \$300 for other supplies.

- Regarding travel: There has been a need for more travel as she is a new Sealer and there were extra trips to Needham for testing and new equipment certification. Plus, there were more re-inspections than previously anticipated.
- Regarding other supplies: Inspections would more easily be allowed if the Sealer were wearing a badge or uniform when requesting inspections on propane trucks or at checkout lines etc.

MOTION: Transfer \$550 from Reserve Fund to Sealer of Weights and Measures for other supplies and travel. Seconded, voted unanimously.

Vote Minutes

MOTION: Accept the minutes for the February 16, 2016 Finance Committee meeting. Seconded, voted unanimously.

FY2017 Town Budget

Nick first announced that a new Veteran's Agent has been hired, Laurie Kozak. She will be at the

Senior Center on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 8:00 to 4:00. Nick Breault and Tom Sullivan completed presenting the FY17 budget to the Finance Committee. Most departments are level funded. However there are some costs that will increase, and issues that need to be settled.

- \$19,763.00 was added to the police salary budget to hire a replacement police officer prior to enough time passing in the unfilled position to pay vacation/sick leave.
- Tom informed the Finance Committee of the potential raise in the health insurance costs and added a worst case scenario cost to the budget. However, the Scantic Valley Regional Health Trust does have a large reserve fund and they are considering using some of that money to offset increases in insurance premiums.
- He also added the non-recurring \$360,000 payment to HWRSD to the town budget to determine a worst case.
- The Town would only be \$74,487 under the levy limit if aforementioned worst case scenarios remain in the FY17 budget.
- A firefighter has recently informed the Town they will retire in FY17. The town will budget for sick leave/vacation buy back.
- Additional funding requests which are not in the budget are, part-time dispatcher, new fire prevention truck, part-time highway position, part-time library position, patrolman position, new senior center copier, selectmen's increase to dues/training/travel, and removal of tree canopies over roads. These additional funding requests total approximately \$202,483.

Debbie Brennan
Staff Accountant