

The Wilbraham Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
Town Hall
April 5, 2016
7:00 p.m.

Present: Dan Miles, Nancy Piccin, Anna Levine, Carolyn Brennan, Mike Mannix, Kevin Murray

Absent: Walt Damon, John Guzzo, Todd Luzi

Also present: Town Accountant Nancy Johnson, Town Collector/Treasurer Tom Sullivan, and DPW Director Ed Miga

Open Forum

Anna wanted to discuss when the next meeting will be. It was determined to be Wednesday, April 13, 2016, 7pm.

DPW

Ed Miga originally asked for a full time person whose salary cost would be split between Highway (general fund) and Waste Water (enterprise fund) to be hired for FY17. This full-timer would be used to ensure compliance with an unfunded mandate placed on us regarding the Phase II Storm Water Regulations by the state, which requires the Town to document and clean all 3000+ catch basins in town. This is a very time consuming exercise. There are only 2 employees in Waste Water and 10 pump stations, so there is little man power in the WW department to clean up the 37 miles of main pipes. Ed understands that the budgets are tight so he has offered another approach to getting the work done and softening the hit to the total budget. He would add another half-time position to Waste Water and nothing to the Highway Dept. He would take an existing employee from the highway department and make him half time there, freeing up half his salary already budgeted for in highway; the other half of his pay would come from Waste Water. This employee would work a half year in highway and a half year in Waste Water. The increased cost to Waste Water is approximately \$23,500 plus half the benefits. The funds freed up in highway would be split between the overtime budget line and part-time salaries (5106). He could hire a part-time person over the summer months to help in highway. He would take advantage of the summer months to get the catch basins cleaned up.

Vote Minutes

MOTION: Accept the minutes for the March 29, 2016 Finance Committee meeting. Seconded, 5 in favor, Dan Miles abstains

FY2017 Budget – Vote Final Budgets

Police

Nancy spoke with Sue Bunnell about hiring another police officer. Sue mentioned how the police department has a three year cycle purchasing cruisers...2 cruisers one year, 2 the next, and 3 in the third year. FY17 is the third year in the cycle. A proposal would be to delay the purchase of the third cruiser to next year to help offset the cost of hiring another patrolman. Nancy spoke with Chief Tucker regarding this and he said he thought it was a great idea. Dan pointed out that the purchase of a police cruiser is non-recurring, while hiring a new patrolman is recurring and includes benefits. He informed the committee that once the number of patrolman on staff is increased, it is very difficult to decrease the number, if a few years down the road it was determined it wasn't needed anymore. Currently there is one Police Chief, 2 Captains, 5 Sergeants, and 18 Patrolman. There are three officers out on IOD. Mike feels there should be a dedicated Police Commission. Currently the Board of Selectmen performs the duties of Police Commission. "Ordering in" an officer (when an officer is held

without the ability to refuse the shift) occurred 64 times in 2015. This leads to a 16 hour work shift.

MOTION: To recommend 210 Police salaries at \$2,267,898 and expenses at \$185,587 for a total budget of \$2,453,485.

Discussion: The budget numbers in the motion includes \$53,000 in salaries for hiring a new patrolman. Benefits costs inherent in hiring a new employee are not included in the salaries. Benefits are in a different budget. The salary cost of the new patrolman will go up, because they start as a probation officer, then the next year he/she will be paid as a patrolman. Then depending on their education, they may make even more.
Seconded, 5 in favor, 1 opposed.

MOTION: To recommend 211 Police (non-recurring) salaries at \$0 and expenses at \$84,000 for a total budget of \$84,000.

Seconded, 5 in favor, 1 opposed.

Highway/Waste Water

MOTION: To recommend 440 Waste Water Enterprise Fund salaries at \$231,089 and expenses at \$983,245 for a total budget of \$1,214,334.

Discussion: The salaries above include \$22,500 for a new halftime person.

Seconded, voted unanimously.

Tree Warden

MOTION: To recommend 294 Tree Warden salaries at \$9,915 and expenses at \$43,891 for a total budget of \$53,806.

Discussion: The expenses include \$5000 to replace some trees and to trim some tree canopies.

Seconded, voted unanimously.

Library

MOTION: To recommend 610 Library salaries at \$466,464 and expenses at \$219,296 for a total budget of \$685,760. Seconded

Discussion: The salaries include \$16,279 for a new part-time position. The position is for a reference and marketing librarian. There is concern to create this position where there may not be enough money to give what the school needs. It may not look good to say we will hire a new librarian, but then lay off a teacher.

1 in favor, 5 opposed. Motion failed.

MOTION: To recommend 610 Library salaries at \$450,185 and expenses at \$219,296 for a total budget of \$669,481. Seconded, voted unanimously.

Highway

MOTION: To recommend 420 Highway salaries at \$615,615 and expenses at \$924,210 for a total budget of \$1,539,825. Seconded, voted unanimously.

Vote Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Articles that are asterisked are Consent Agenda and are non-controversial items. The Consent Agenda articles can be voted on as a whole. The rest of the articles must be voted on individually. The Finance Committee must recommend or not recommend each article. The finance committee will use the next week to read the warrant and be prepared to vote at the next meeting.

Next Finance Committee meeting is April 13, 2016, 7pm.

Motion was made to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. Seconded, voted unanimously.

Debbie Brennan
Staff Accountant