

Finance Committee Minutes

January 11th 2018

The minutes for November 16th were distributed at 6:00PM. The meeting was called to order at 6:05PM. Present were Mr. Carson, Mr. Pshenishny, Mr. Miller, Mrs. Fracasso, and Mrs. Spaulding, with Mrs. Walker arriving at 6:45PM. A motion was made to include Mr. Klein by telephone (Mr. Carson 1st, Mrs. Fracasso 2nd passed unanimously.)

Prior Minutes: were accepted as read, Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed unanimously.

Budget review began;-

Moderator [10114.00] (\$145) level funded {\$145}, Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Klein 2nd passed unanimously.

Town Counsel [10124.00] (\$10,000) level funded {\$10,000} Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Klein 2nd passed unanimously.

Tax Collector Computer Services [10146.02] (\$6505.00) now requesting {\$6830.00} paper attached explained the anticipated raise in rates. Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Miller 2nd passed unanimously.

Regional Planning Commission [6012] (\$1,144.39) now requesting {\$1,173.00}. This is an assessment. Mr. Carson 1st, Mrs. Walker 2nd passed unanimously.

Planning Board Expenses [10175.01] (\$873) Level funded {\$873}, Mr. Klein 1st, Mrs. Fracasso 2nd passed unanimously.

District Department of Veterans Services [6025] (\$6,558.00) now requesting {\$6670.58} this is an assessment, Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Miller 2nd passed unanimously.

Constable Salaries [60211.00] (\$ 475) Level funded {\$475}, Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed unanimously.

Emergency Management Notification System [60291.05] (\$ 2,500) now requesting {\$2,600} Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Miller 2nd passed unanimously.

911 Coordinator Expenses [60295.00] (\$100) level funded {\$100} Mr. Miller 1st, Mr. Carson 2nd passed unanimously.

Visiting Nurse [70522.00] (\$2,580) Level funded {\$2,580}. This is an assessment for the services provided to the town for the coming year. Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed unanimously.

2013 Highway Truck Loan [80750.17] (\$ 38,758.00) this loan will terminate in the FY 18 budget leaving no balance to be paid in FY19.

Town Hall Renovation Loans 2013 (\$13,358) this loan will terminate in the FY 18 budget leaving no balance to be paid in FY19.

Loader Loan [80750.20] (\$18,103) now requesting {\$17,796.08} this will be the last payment on this loan. Mrs. Walker 1st, Mr. Carson 2nd passed unanimously.

2014 Highway Truck Loan [80750.19] (\$24,840) now requesting {\$24,420} . Mrs. Walker 1st, Mr. Carson 2nd passed unanimously.

2015 Highway Truck Loan [80750.22] {\$ 47,276) now requesting {\$46,384} Mrs. Walker 1st, Mr. Carson 2nd passed unanimously.

Fire Truck Loan [80750.23] (\$ 74,800) now requesting {\$ 72,600} the size and the length of this loan prompted some discussion. Mr. Klein would like to see the paperwork on the loan when he returns. Mrs. Walker 1st, Mr. Carson 2nd passed unanimously.

Berkshire County Retirement Association [90911.00] (\$ 125,011) this is an assessment, and now requesting {\$144,689} Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed unanimously.

During the budget reviews there were some budgets that required further information and were put on HOLD. It is hoped that Ms. Enoch will be able to provide the Committee with the needed information!

Cemetery Expenses [20491.02] Increase?

Library Expenses [50610.00] itemization explained?

Unpachene Falls [50650.00] explain various costs?

Emergency Management Expenses [60291.01] itemization needed.

Animal Expenses [60293.77] clarification needed.

Mental Health [70523.00] assessment or charity?

Mrs. Walker Reports:

Mrs. Walker has spent some time reviewing information on COLA's. These are not tied to performance on the job but rather to the Consumer Price Index 2.2% raised in 2017 and the raise figure is anticipated for 2018 to be released soon, and the cost of living again not tied to performance. Mrs. Walker stated that most companies appeared to be giving between 1.5% and 2% COLAS?

Mrs. Walker then had some questions as to whether the Committee had been provided with the expected revenue for 2019; this includes taxes, overlay, income etc. With this information the Committee will be able to assess what to expect for the next year.

She also questioned as to whether the town had provided the state with the necessary information thus establishing "Free Cash", and whether the town had arranged for an audit. She stated that she will present these questions to Mrs. Enoch in the coming week.

Mrs. Walker stated that she was limited in her report regarding the by-law. She had had a 1 ½ hour conversation with Mr. Allen Tosti of the Massachusetts Municipal Association on December 8th, and as a result she had just received bylaws from other towns, and did not have the time to review them. She questioned as to whether the New Marlborough Finance Committee had a mission statement, and suggested that if not, one should be established. She also noted that other towns had well designed web sites with information about their Finance Committees.

It is hoped that she will have further information about the establishment of a current by-law for the Finance Committee of New Marlborough in the near future.

A motion to adjourn at 7:45PM was made by Mrs. Spaulding 1st , Mr. Miller 2nd passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be held on January 25th at 6:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Prudence Spaulding