

Finance Committee Minutes

January 26th 2017

The minutes for January 19th 2017 were distributed at 6:35PM. In attendance were Mr. Mark Carson, Mrs. Marilyn Fracasso, Mr. Robert Miller, Mr. John Pshenishny, Mrs. Prudence Spaulding, guests were Ms. Mari Enoch, Mrs. Michele Shalaby, Mrs. Marsha Pshenishny, Mr. Edgar Zukauskas, Ms. Tara White and Mr. Peter Schuyten.

The meeting started at 6:40PM and the minutes were accepted as read, Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd unanimously accepted.

Mr. Pshenishny had attended the SBRSD Finance Committee meeting on January 19th and gave a brief report. Some of the topics were out of state tuition, and the use of some grants. Mr. Pshenishny would like to get a list of the grants and the donations that the school district receives. Both he and Mr. Carson were concerned about the use of grants since the school can get them but when they run out the school is expected to continue the grant subsidized programs and this may cause an increase in the budget requests. Mr. Carson will explore this with Mrs. Regan the business manager. There was some discussion about the new bus contract, which they hope will only show an increase of perhaps 12%, however Mr. Miller stated that he thought that this was unrealistic. They have not got the projected figures for the bus contract and this plays a great part in their budget. They have made some cuts but will have to make more. The school population has decreased between 46 and 51 students in the past year! Ms. White will try to find out if the number of New Marlborough students has decreased. New Marlborough, in the past, has been responsible for 21.7% of the budget. A decrease in New Marlborough students would impact the amount the school would require from the town.

The committee then began to review budget requests; Ms. Enoch had provided extra information to help in this process. Each member of the group had papers that showed the amount expended in each account for the past three years, also the Department Expenditures from July 1st, 2015 to June 30th 2016 with the percentages attached.

Tax Collector Computer Services [10146.02] (\$6,505) level funded {\$6,505} contractual services Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Miller 2nd passed unanimously.

Tax Collector Expenses [10147.99] (\$5,700) now requesting {\$6,080} itemized expenditures. Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mrs. Marilyn Fracasso 2nd passed unanimously.

Tax Title Collector [10148.00] (\$2,000) however this account was cut in July 2016 to (\$1000) now requesting {\$2,000}; the expenditures from this account depend upon the unpaid real estate taxes and the process of putting the owners into land court. Our tax collector tries to get the delinquent tax payers to work out a program of payment rather than proceed toward land court which is very expensive. The funds in this account are used only as a last resort. During the past three years the

account has been used for up to \$1850 in 2014 down to \$550 during 2016. Mrs. Spaulding made a motion to make the 2018 appropriation of {\$700}. Mr. Miller 2nd passed unanimously.

Village Green Maintenance (50650.50) (\$ 3,508) now requesting {\$2,612}. Information was included to reveal the amount of area mowed and the adjustment of costs. Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Miller 2nd passed unanimously.

Mental Health [70523.00], (\$200) now requesting {\$300}, this service provides help for drug users and others. The members of the Committee considered it important. Mr. Carson 1st, Mrs. Spaulding 2nd passed unanimously.

Council on Aging Transportation [70541.00] (\$3607) requesting {\$5,607}, this line item was able to be paid in part out of another COA account, but no funds remain in that account and this is a contractual service which provides transportation to seniors or disabled to go to doctors, dentists, hair appointments, banks, grocery stores etc. Usually coming to New Marlborough once a week, it has been coming four days a week during the past year taking seniors to Fairview Commons Day Care program as well as other destinations. Mr. Miller 1st, Mrs. Fracasso 2nd passed with Mrs. Spaulding recusing.

Council on Aging Expenses [70541.01] (\$550) level funded {\$550} because it had not been fully expended last year Mrs. Spaulding suggested that it be cut to {\$250} Mr. Carson 1st, Mrs. Fracasso 2nd passed with Mrs. Spaulding recusing.

Senior Tax Work-off Abatement Program [70560.01] (\$150) level funded {\$150} Mrs. Carson 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed with Mrs. Spaulding recusing.

Berkshire County Retirement Association [90911.00] (\$123,440) now requesting {\$125,011} this is a required payment. Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Miller 2nd passed unanimously.

Health Agent Revolving [5512.00] {\$17,000} this is a revolving account and does not require the Committee's approval.

Regional Planning Commission [6012.00] (\$1,117) now requesting {\$1,256} this is a required assessment payment. Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed unanimously.

Memorial Day {50692.00} (\$900) now requesting {\$1,000}, the Department Head increased this budget because he was concerned about the possible cost of a bus to bring the band from SBRSD to play when there was a parade. The band plays in all the other towns that form the district and Mr. Miller stated that he had never been aware of a charge for the bus. The committee suggested that the amount be revised to {\$700}. Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mrs. Fracasso 2nd passed unanimously.

Library Expenses [50610.01] (\$43,978) now requesting {\$46,977}. This well itemized request showed the increases in different categories justifying the total increase in the budget. Mr. Miller 1st, Mrs. Fracasso 2nd passed unanimously.

Library Trustees [50610.03] (\$320) level funded {\$320} Mr. Carson 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed unanimously.

Cultural Council [50640.04] (\$1,000) level funded {\$1,000} this money is used as "seed money" to cover the costs of a general mailing to encourage donations to the council. Mrs. Pshenishny 1st, Mr. Carson 2nd passed unanimously.

Board of Health Expenses and Clerical were put on hold for further information.

Salary items and stipend items from other accounts have been put on hold.

Ms. Enoch reported that the bill for the plumbing problem suffered at the Library and which would have had to be paid perhaps out of the Reserve Fund had been paid by a generous donor!!!

Before adjourning there was a discussion of the future meetings that the Committee should attend at SBRSD Finance Committee meetings and the scheduling of some of our Finance Committee meetings when department heads could come and discuss their budget.

On Tuesday January 31st 7:00PM there will be a SBRSD Finance Committee meeting and a general school meeting will be held on Thursday February 2nd.

Our next meeting on Thursday February 9th will feature the Police budget with Police Chief Graham Frank presenting and with other smaller budgets to be reviewed. On Tuesday February 14th our Committee will meet at 11AM when Mr. Chuck Loring the Highway Superintendent and Fire Chief will come to present his budgets.

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:25PM Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Miller 2nd passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Spaulding Secretary.