February 18, 2016

Town of West Bridgewater

Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting

The meeting convened at 6:31 P.M. in the Selectmen’s Meeting Room in the West Bridgewater Town Hall.

Committee Members Present: Chairman Meredith Anderson, Vice Chairman Ms. Jeri Screncl, Mr. Peter Fredericksen, Ms. Cheryl Adams, Mr. Maurice McCarthy, Mr. Anthony Kinahan, Ms. Janice Fox and Mr. J.P. Waller.

Committee Members Absent: Ms. Jennifer Clark-Croes.

The meeting started with a discussion about the reorganization of the Finance Committee board. Mr. Anthony Kinahan made a motion to keep the board positions the same, Mr. Maurice McCarthy seconded and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of this motion.

There was then a discussion about the Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles. The first article discussed was the appropriation of funds to replace the roof on the Spring Street School. Chairman Meredith Anderson and Mr. David Gagne provided information about the Spring Street School roof replacement and how the MSBA funding and bonding of the project would work. Mr. David Gagne also explained how the cost estimates are generated before the official bidding process starts. Mr. Peter Fredericksen made a motion to recommend the article as written, Mr. Maurice McCarthy seconded and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of this motion.

The next article discussed was the donation of a parcel of land to the Town. Mr. Wayne Parks from the Water Department described the property being donated and how the existing easements to the Town’s water well and pipe worked. Mr. Maurice McCarthy made a motion to recommend the article as written, Mr. Peter Fredericksen seconded and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of this motion.

The next article discussed was the appropriation of funds to purchase a parcel of land by the Town. Mr. James Benson from the Historical Commission described the property being sold and historical significance of the property which is located adjacent to the Town’s oldest cemetery. Mr. Maurice McCarthy made a motion to recommend the article as written, Ms. Janice Fox seconded and the Committee voted 5 to 3 in favor of the motion.

Mr. John Duggan then entered the meeting to present budgets 1450 (Treasurer/Collector), 7100 (Debt-Principal), 7510 (Debt-Interest) and 7520 (Short Term Interest). Mr. John Duggan started by giving a brief description of the Treasurer/Collector budget and highlighting key items/changes. He also went over the necessary principal debt payments for the year and answered any questions. He then exited the meeting.
Mr. Wayne Parks and Mr. Donald Asack then entered the meeting to present budget 4500 (Water Department). Mr. Wayne Parks started by giving a brief description of the budget and highlighting key items/changes. He explained the changes in Clerical Salary and Office Manager line items due to personnel changes. He also explained the changes in lines for Equipment Rental. There was a formatting error on the spreadsheet which led to some lines being displayed incorrectly so he stated he would update the sheet and then send it back to the Committee. Mr. Wayne Parks and Mr. Donald Asack then exited the meeting.

Mr. John Delano then entered the room to present budgets 1710 (Conservation Committee) and 1715 (Open Space). Mr. John Delano started by giving a brief description of the Conservation Committee budget and highlighted key line items/changes. He explained the line item increases for salary were due to increased hours needed due to the MS4 EPA wastewater regulations. He also explained the new line item to bring in a college student to assist with the MS4 work needed. He then discussed the Open Space budget which was level funded. He then exited the meeting.

Mr. David Gagne then presented the following budgets: 1720 (Agricultural Commission), 5260 (Womans Place), 5270 (BAARC), 5280 (Old Colony), and 6600 (Plymouth County Ext Service). The Committee discussed these budgets and Mr. David Gagne answered any questions that arose.

The Committee then discussed the Capital Budget Representatives for the Committee. Chairman Meredith Anderson, Mr. Maurice McCarthy, Ms. Jeri Screnci volunteered to be the representatives.

The Committee then discussed the Secretarial Position for the Committee. Mr. Peter Fredericksen made a motion to post the secretary position and authorize Chairman Meredith Anderson to hire the secretary, Mr. Maurice McCarthy seconded and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of this motion.

The Committee then discussed future meeting dates and the upcoming budget review schedule.

Mr. Peter Fredericksen then made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Cheryl Adams seconded and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of this motion.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

J.P. Waller, Secretary