



Town of Wilmington

Finance Committee

121 Glen Road Wilmington, 01887

Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2019

Finance Committee Chairman, John F. Doherty III, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in Room 9 of Town Hall. Members present were Theresa M. Manganelli, Vice Chairman; Marianne Gallezzo, Bernard P. Nally, Michelle Kincaid, Kevin Stokes, Leigh Martinson, and Hirak Shah.

Also present were Valarie Gingrich, Director of Planning and Conservation; Michael Sorrentino, Planning board Chairman; Planning Board Members: Terrance Boland, Randi R. Holland, Sean Hennigan, and David Shedd

The purpose of the meeting was to review the articles to be presented at the Annual Town Meeting on Saturday May 4, 2019.

ZONING ARTICLES

Planning Board Chairman, Michael Sorrentino read Articles 39, 40, 41, 42, 44, 45 and 46. They opened the discussion and invited public comments. The Planning Board then adjourned to Room 9 to discuss their recommendations for the aforementioned articles.

READING OF THE WARRANT ARTICLES

Present in Interest: Jeffrey Hull Town Manager

Mr. Doherty read the following Articles into the record:

ARTICLE 1: Regarding positions for election and notification of Annual Town Election on April 27, 2019.

ARTICLE 2: Regarding reports of the Committees. Mr. Hull had no reports this year.

ARTICLE 3: Request for funds for unpaid bills from the previous fiscal year. Mr. Hull stated that the Town had no unpaid bills this year.

ARTICLE 4: Request to authorize the Town Treasurer/Tax Collector to enter into agreements with banks to conduct Town business. Mr. Hull stated that this the annual banking article that authorizes the Treasurer/Collector to do business with banks. Mr. McDonald, 140 Andover Street, stated that earlier today he had asked from Mr. Hull for the list of banks that the town does business with and their interest rates. Mr. Hull replied that he did not have the list of banks on hand and the interest rates change from month to month. Mr. McDonald asked what amount is insured if the banks fail. Mr. Hull stated that he did not have that information on hand. Mr. Hull informed the Committee that the Treasurer/Collector could not attend this meeting but he will get that information at a later time for Mr. McDonald. Mr. McDonald asked the Chairman to make sure that Mr. Hull provides a list of all the banks, the banks interest rates and the amount that is insured to him. He would like to have this information before the Town Meeting so that the public can make an informed decision.

ARTICLE 5: Request for funds for salaries for Town Officers and Departments.

ARTICLE 6: Request for funds for procurement of capital equipment. Mr. McDonald, Andover Street, stated that in the past the police vehicles get recycled to other departments. He would like to know why the town is purchasing \$58,000.00 SUV's for Department heads. Mr.

McDonald asked if the Police Chief drove a luxury SUV with bells and whistles. Chief Begonis responded that his vehicle is a 2012 and was purchased with the drug trust fund money. The previous one was purchased through the budget and was certainly not a luxury vehicle. There was a brief discussion on what the Drug Trust Fund Money could be used for. Mr. McDonald asked what vehicle is being purchased for the Deputy Fire Chief. Mr. Hull stated the proposed vehicle is an Expedition at a cost of \$58,000.00. The type and size of the vehicle was chosen because the amount of equipment the Deputy Chief is required to have on hand. The current vehicle is a 2005 Explorer with 115,000 miles on it and it will be cycled out to be used by other departments.

ARTICLE 7: Request for funds for the upgrade of cameras in the Booking Room and Evidence Room at the Public Safety Building. Mr. Hull stated the request is for \$31,000.00 to replace an out of date system.

ARTICLE 8: Request for funds to replace the fire alerting system at the Public Safety Building. Mr. Hull stated that \$175,000.00 is requested to replace out of date fire alerting equipment.

ARTICLE 9: Requests for funds for the replacement of a new higher efficiency dual fuel fired furnace the Wilmington Library. Mr. Hull stated the request is for \$185,000.00 to replace an existing heating system.

ARTICLE 10: Request for funds for the replacement of a portion of lighting with LED fixtures at the West Intermediate School. Mr. Hull stated the request is for \$100,000.00 and is part of a two year plan to replace the lighting in the schools.

ARTICLE 11: Request for funds for the reconstruction of a portion of the parking lot at the Woburn Street School. Mr. Hull stated that \$155,000.00 is budgeted to repave the parking lot.

ARTICLE 12: Request for funds for the conversion of underground fuel tanks to above ground fuel tanks at the Department of Public works. Mr. Hull stated that the request is to seek \$566,000.00 to replace tanks installed in 1986. Mr. McDonald stated that this location is near wetlands and a quarry. He asked Mr. Hull why they were not putting the new tanks in a safer area. Mr. Hull stated that this site has been reviewed and approved by the Town's Engineers. Mr. McDonald asked what the contingency plan was if the tanks fail. Deputy Chief Cavanaugh stated that all above ground tanks have 110% containment as part of the code standard. If there is a leak it will be contained.

ARTICLE 13: Request for funds for the construction of a sidewalk on Shady Lane Drive. Mr. Hull stated that this request is for \$84,000.00 which is phase 3 of a 4 stage project. It will run from Lawrence Street to Shady Lane Drive. The last stage will be requested next year and will connect the sidewalks to Middlesex Ave. Janice Sawyer, 8 Lawrence Street stated that she lives on the part of the Lawrence Street that has had sidewalks installed. She does not believe that they are handicap accessible. She would like to know if these sidewalks would be handicap accessible. Mr. Woods Director of Public works stated that all of the sidewalks that have been installed are 5 feet wide and ADA compliant.

ARTICLE 14: Request for funds for the installation of 2,300 linear feet of granite curbing on Middlesex Avenue from Federal Street to First Avenue. Mr. Hull stated that this request is for \$100,000.00. \$50,000 will be taken from the Chapter 90 highway funds and the rest Will be taken from the tax levy.

ARTICLE 15: Request for funds to comply with the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) Requirement as part of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. Mr. Hull is

requesting \$10,000.00. This is a federal Law that the community is responsible for. This will be a request at future Annual Town meetings as well.

ARTICLE 16: Request for funds for the participation in the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority Financial Assistance Program. Mr. Hull stated that this request is for \$856,000. 25% is from a grant, 75% is in the form of a loan.

ARTICLE 17: Request for funds for the replacement of laptop and desktop computers at the North Intermediate School and West Intermediate School. Mr. Hull stated that the request is for \$100,000.00.

ARTICLE 18: Request for funds for the replacement of existing projectors and interactive whiteboards at the Wilmington Middle School. Mr. Hull stated that the request if for \$180,000.00. Mr. McDonald asked how many projectors and White boards there are. Mr. Hull stated that he does not have this information on hand.

ARTICLE 19: Request for funds for the upgrade of the PA system at the Early Childhood Centers, Elementary Schools and Intermediate Schools. Mr. Hull stated that this is part of a two phase project. \$30,000.00 is being requested for the first phase in this budget. Mr. McDonald asked if the PA systems were working. Mr. Hull stated that they are having some problems but he does not have specific information on the condition of the PA Systems.

ARTICLE 20: Request for funds for the purchase of a new data center for the school district. Mr. Hull stated that this request is for \$100,000.00 for a new data room. This is for a more efficient operation.

ARTICLE 21: Request for funds for the multi-year replacement of Chromebooks and Chromebook Carts for the Wilmington Public Schools. Mr. Hull stated that this request is for \$20,000.00.

ARTICLE 22: Request for funds to upgrade the wireless system at the Wilmington Middle School. Mr. Hull stated that the request is for \$100,000.00.

ARTICLE 23: Request for funds for the replacement of laboratory computers at the Middle School. Mr. Hull stated the request is for \$75,000.00.

ARTICLE 24: Request for funds to deposit a sum of money in the Other Post Employment Liability Trust Fund. Mr. Hull stated that the request is for \$1,000,000.00. Mr. McDonald asked where the money is being transferred from. Mr. Hull stated that it is coming from the Tax Levy. There was a discussion on the details of this fund. Mr. McDonald asked if this liability is so large, why the town is increasing the staff. Mr. Hull stated that the Liability is a concern but the town has a need for appropriate staffing.

ARTICLE 25: Request for funds to deposit a sum of money in the Capital Stabilization Fund. Mr. Hull stated that this request is for a transfer from free cash to this fund in the amount of \$4,000,000.00. Janice Sawyer asked what the current balance was in the Capital Stabilization Fund. Mr. Hull responded that the amount is \$10,600,000.00.

ARTICLE 26: Request for funds to deposit a sum of money in the Employee Retirement Benefits Stabilization fund. Mr. Hull stated that this request is to transfer \$500,000.00 into this fund. Mr. McDonald stated that he requested the amount of money paid to employee health benefits earlier today. He asked for additional information on benefit payments. Chairman Doherty stated that this information was reviewed at earlier finance meetings that he could have attended.

ARTICLE 27: Request for funds to pay the Middlesex Retirement System. Mr. Hull stated that the request is to make an advance payment for \$1,000,000.

ARTICLE 28: To see what sum the Town will vote to transfer into various Fiscal Year 2018 budget line items. Mr. Hull Stated That there is not a specific amount at this time. He will at this information at the Annual Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 29: Request for funds for the funding of the Fourth of July celebration. Mr. Hull stated that this request is to authorize \$50,000.00 for this celebration.

ARTICLE 30: Request for funds for the observance of Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Mr. Hull stated that the request is for \$8,000.00

ARTICLE 31: Request to accept the provision of General Law Chapter 59, section 5, clause 17F, as inserted by section 10 of Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2018, to allow for an annual increase in the amount of the exemption granted under General Law Chapter 59, Section 5 clause 17D. The exemption is presently being \$175, such increased exemption to be available on or after July 1, 2019.

ARTICLE 32: Request for funds for renewal of Foreign Wars Clubhouse and American Legion Clubhouse. The request is funds is for \$750.00 to pay the lease for these two organizations.

ARTICLE 33: Request for funds to operate the Public Rink enterprise. Mr. Hull stated that this establishes that in the event the town would acquire a rink, this would be used to support the rink. Mr. McDonald introduced an article regarding ice rinks in another town. Mr. Doherty did not allow this.

ARTICLE 34: Request to accept as public ways Mink Run Road and Pomfret Road. Mr. Hull stated that these are two roads that they meet the engineering standards that are required to be taken over by the Town.

ARTICLE 35: Request to determine the spending limits for revolving accounts. Mr. Hull stated that the compost fund is used to purchase more bins to continue this benefit to the town. The second revolving fund is the septic disposal program. Funds were received from the state to provide loans to Wilmington residents to replace their failing septic systems. Once those loans are paid off, the funds are used to give out new loans. Mr. McDonald asked how much money was in the account. Mr. Hull responded that there is around \$118,000.00. Mr. McDonald asked if everyone that has taken a loan paid it back. Mr. Hull replied that they did.

ARTICLE 36: Request for funds from the Transportation Infrastructure Receipts Reserve Account for the purpose of Roadway Surface Crack Sealing. Mr. Hull stated that source of funding is generated from a tax on use of Lift and Uber. The money needs to be accepted at town meeting. The amount is \$4051.80. Mr. McDonald wanted to know if Mr. Hull would commit a crew from the DPW to repair potholes. Mr. Hull replied that the Department of Public Works maintains the roads.

ARTICLE 37: Request to create a revenue account to be known as a the PEG Access and Cable Related Special Revenue Fund into which shall be deposited funds received in connection with the cable television franchise agreements between the Town, Comcast Corporation, Verizon Communications, or any other cable operator. Mr. Hull stated that \$625,000.00 will go into this account. The Board of Selectmen can authorize to transfer these funds to pay for Wilmington Community Access Television. Mr. McDonald would like WCTV to cover all Town Meetings.

ARTICLE 38: Request to accept the provision of G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53F1/2 establishing the sewer division as an Enterprise Fund effective Fiscal Year 2021. Mr. Hull stated that this would create a revolving account for the sewer system. The funds that come in from the sewer system could then be used to maintain this system. The selectman would have to vote to authorize any payments from this account.

ARTICLE 43: Request the State Legislature to authorize Adam J. Silva to have his results for the 2018 (and all future) Massachusetts Civil Service entry level Fire fighter exam be allowed for employment without regard to the applicant's age at the time as a Firefighter for the Town of Wilmington. The petitioner was not present.

Mr. Doherty asked Mr. Hull for the prices for the Capital Equipment in Article 6. Mr. Hull stated that the cost of the Police SUV's is \$250,000.00, the Deputy Fire Chief SUV is \$58,000.00, the Bucket Truck is \$180,000.00, the two $\frac{3}{4}$ Dump trucks is \$40,000.00, and the One Ton Dump is \$72,000.00. Mr. McDonald asked Mr. Doherty if the town was purchasing a new Fire Truck. Mr. Doherty replied that the town was not purchasing a Fire Truck this year.

At the conclusion of the discussion, and there being no further business to come before the Committee, a motion was made by Ms. Manganelli, and seconded by Ms. Gallezzo, it was unanimously:

VOTED: That the Finance Committee adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm

Respectfully Submitted,


Recording Secretary