

Finance Committee Meeting - February 23, 2015

Members: Mike Canivales, Doug Cliggott, Mark Hatch, Stan Sikorski, Duane Steele, Louise Vendon, Clarence Walker

Also Present: Dan Hoort, Finance Director

1. Housing update - Michelle Jarusiewicz, Housing Specialist

No housing articles on Warrant except possibly from Community Preservation Committee (CPC), other than CIP. Possible change to Land Bank - Selectmen meeting tonight.

Current housing projects - Grace Gouveia building closing happened February 6; submitted local action to State to count 3 affordable units; 3 resale units in pipeline. 44 Bradford received feasibility report, BOS voted to create 11-15 mixed income housing. Stable Path construction to start March/April. Community Preservation Act request to change housing position from part-time to full-time. Winslow Farm acquisition moving forward; \$1 million CPA funds request. Fire Station No. 2 proposal to create 2 units upstairs. Proposal to add story to Community Center for Housing. CPC to vote on all of the above in the near future.

CIP proposal is \$3 million for 2017.

2. School budget - Dr. Beth Singer, School Superintendent; Tony Brackett, School Committee Chair; Cass Benson, School Committee Co-Chair

\$75,000 in Budget - covers need for International Baccalaureate (IB) Coordinator - required to maintain IB status - teacher training; ESL instructor; Special Needs Coordinator

Voted unanimously to approve Selectmen's proposed budget.

3. Library budget - Matt Clark, Acting Library Director

Public Services 6-10

Vote to recommend budget not approved based on proposal to not fund Acting Library Director's prior position if he is chosen as Library Director. Meeting to discuss proposal with Library Board of Trustees scheduled for next week.

4. Police budget - Jim Golden, Acting Chief

Police car - emergency fund transfer of \$40,000 to pay to replace vehicle damaged on January 23, 2015, on black ice. Money to be refunded to Fincom Reserve after Town Meeting approval of cost of two new vehicles. Voted unanimous approval.

Operations budget (2-10) - voted unanimously to approve BOS proposal to cut to \$2.4 million. Only way to implement would be a staffing cut - potentially the second-in-command. Could result in overtime costs.

[Part 2]

5. DPW budget - Rich Waldo, Director; Eric Larsen, Deputy Director; Sherry Prada

Sewer capacity - Sewer Treatment Plant was not designed to serve whole Town per decision in 2000. Current capacity is 1.2 million gallons (Title V) - whole Town would require 2.2 million. 80,000 still available to allocate, but has to be allocated carefully. Total cost to date is \$50 million, \$35 million came from USDA. Adding the other million gallons might cost \$25 million.

Enterprise funds - water is flat. Retained earnings is \$1.3 million. Voted unanimously to approve Selectmen's proposed budget.

Wastewater - expenses done due to interest on debt services. 20-year contract with AECOM, prices set in 2002. Increase based on inflation index. Voted unanimously to approve Selectmen's proposed budget.

6. Pier Corp. - Kerry Adams, Director; Scott Fraser, Treasurer; Herb Hintze, Director; and Rex McKinsey, Harbormaster

Chapter 13 of the Acts of 2000 - enabling legislation; Lease between Pier Corp and the Town; Management Agreement - addresses responsibility of Pier Manager and Harbormaster

Current proposal by Acting Town Manager is contrary to the enabling legislation - would dissolve Pier Corp. Town owns the Pier; legislature allows Town to dissolve Agreement.

Potential sources of revenue enhancement - raise rents on fishing industry (currently subsidize by charging below market rate); embarkation fee on non-ferry passengers; or divert embarkation fee on ferry passengers from Town general revenue to Pier Corp.

Voted unanimously to approve Selectmen's proposed budget.

Adjourned at 3:45.