

# TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN

## Finance Committee

Lawrence Memorial Hall

2 Jabish Street, P.O. Box 670

Belchertown, Massachusetts 01007



Steven Rose, Chairman  
Lynne Raymer, Vice-Chairman  
Melissa Hurst, Clerk  
Edward Boscher  
Laurie Shea

### Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, October 18, 2017  
Time: 7:00pm  
Location: Lawrence Memorial Hall  
Present: Steven Rose, Lynne Raymer, Melissa Hurst, Edward Boscher, Laurie Shea  
Guest(s): Nick O'Connor

- Meeting called to order at 7:00pm.

#### School Budget Discussion

- Discussion of amount School Choice Funds and question of \$30,000 "other" funds there.
  - Understanding that funds were placed in that account as funds carryover fiscal years and the financial impacts of outstanding contract negotiations with the unions were unknown.
  - The \$30,000 has now been spent and School Choice account now contains only School Choice funds.
- Discussion of status of union contract negotiations. Mr. O'Connor indicated that the contract negotiations with the paraprofessionals remain ongoing.
  - Unclear if Town-side employees have changed to 70-30 contributions towards health insurance. Mr. O'Connor will follow up.
  - Changes in health insurance plan through HCOG/Trust and these changes have been communicated to collective bargaining employees.

#### Review Mail

- Mr. Rose reviewed the mail with the Finance Committee.

### **FY19 Budget Discussion**

- Discussion of impacts of state funding and insurance changes on FY19 budget.
- A budget shortfall is anticipated for FY19.

### **Define Level Service**

- Discussion of Level Service definition options
  - Suggestion that it includes cost of living adjustments, longevity, step raises for non-collective bargaining employees
  - Suggestion to use Canton's formula, which spells out the prior fiscal year's budgeted amount, contracted increases, and then new requests
  - Suggestion that the Finance Committee propose a new form for budget proposals to get away from the loaded "Level Funding" and "Level Service" terms.
    - i. Use FY18 Approved Budget, break out Contracted Wages and Contracted Expenses, then additional Requested Increases
    - ii. Plan to meet on November 2, 2017 at 7pm and Mr. Rose and Mr. Boscher to draft options of budget request forms.
    - iii. Anticipate attending Select Board meeting on November 6, 2017.

### **Re-Votes on Prior Business**

- Discussion that there was a delay in the reappointments of Ms. Hurst and Mr. Boscher and both have now been sworn in for another term.
- Mr. Rose requested that the Finance Committee re-vote all prior business after July 1, 2017.
  - Transfer from Pathfinder assessment to Library Wage in the amount of \$1,500. Ms. Raymer moved to approve the transfer and Mr. Rose seconded. Transfer was approved 5-0-0.
  - Transfer from Police Expense to Police Wage in the amount of \$25,000. Ms. Raymer moved to approve the transfer and Mr. Rose seconded. Transfer was approved 5-0-0.
  - Ms. Hurst distributed minutes from the July 5, 2017 meeting. Mr. Rose moved to accept the minutes of the July 5, 2017 meeting and Ms. Shea seconded. Minutes were accepted 3-0-2.
  - Ms. Hurst distributed minutes from the August 8, 2017 meeting. Ms. Raymer moved to accept the minutes of the August 8, 2017 meeting. Ms. Shea seconded. Minutes were accepted 4-0-1.
  - Mr. Boscher moved that the Finance Committee approve payment of the Committee's \$210 dues for membership in the Association of Town Finance Committees. Ms. Shea seconded. Committee voted 5-0-0 for payment to be made.

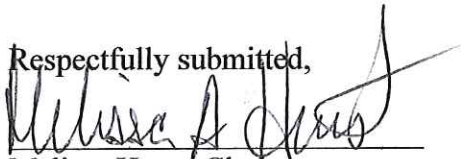
**Miscellaneous Matters**

- Discussion regarding minutes from the September 18, 2017 “Tri-Board” meeting and that meeting minutes had been the subject of a FOIA request prior to them being adopted.
  - Clarification was made that the School Committee had not posted a meeting and that two members, while present, did not speak and were there as “members of the public.”
  - Ms. Hurst will edit the minutes from that meeting and present them again at a future meeting.
- Discussion that OPEB liability will be on the Town’s balance sheet as of July 1, 2019.


**Adjournment**

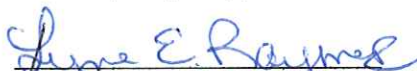
- Meeting adjourned at 8:47pm.


Respectfully submitted,

  
Melissa Hurst, Clerk

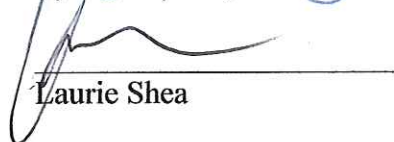
FINCOM Town of Belchertown (Endorsed by majority)

  
Steven Rose, Chair

  
Lynne Raymer, Vice Chair

  
Melissa Hurst, Clerk

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Edward Boscher

  
Laurie Shea

