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.
    1. Use FY18 Approved Budget, break out Contracted Wages and Contracted Expenses, then additional Requested Increases
    2. Plan to meet on November 2, 2017 at 7pm and Mr. Rose and Mr. Boscher to draft options of budget request forms.
    3. 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,

[Signature]
Melissa Hurst, Clerk

FINCOM Town of Belchertown (Endorsed by majority)

[Signature]
Steven Rose, Chair

[Signature]
Lynne Raymer, Vice Chair

[Signature]
Melissa Hurst, Clerk

[Signature]
Edward Boscher

[Signature]
Laurie Shea