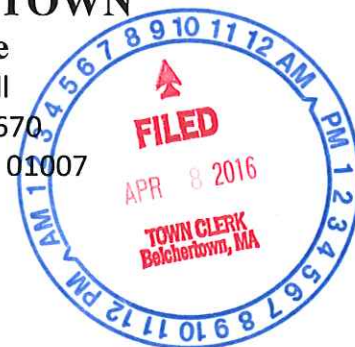


TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN

Finance Committee

Lawrence Memorial Hall
2 Jabish Street, P.O. Box 670
Belchertown, Massachusetts 01007



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

Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, March 15, 2016
Time: 7:00pm
Location: Lawrence Memorial Hall
Present: Edward Boscher, Melissa Hurst, Lynne Raymer, Steven Rose
Guest(s): Gary Brougham, Jill Panto, Lisa Banner, Lakes Committee, Kevin Hannon (Computing), Ted Boch (Fire Dept.), and Steve Williams (Dept. of Public Works)

- Meeting called to order at 7:00pm.

Old Business – Post-Retirement Benefits

- Ms. Banner presented to the Finance Committee, indicating that the total liability to fully fund the Town's Post-Retirement Benefits is \$22 million such fully funding would require allocations of \$2.3 million each year.
- The standards for reporting are changing beginning in 2017, so the liability will be clear. If this is not at least addressed, then the Town's credit rating could drop.
- Ms. Banner suggested beginning with allocating \$75,000 to \$100,000, stating that some municipalities start funding through the Stabilization Fund, while others tie it to a particular tax.
- Meal tax last year brought in \$83,000.
- Discussion of possibly designating the funds from the Meals Tax and 10% of Free Cash in the future.
- Mr. Brougham indicated that he is looking at new revenue sources. Ms. Panto stated that if the Town chooses to use the Meals Tax to fund the Post-Retirement Benefits, the funds would need to flow through Free Cash as they cannot be directly allocated.

Old Business – Lakes Committee

- Leanne Connolly and the Lakes Committee presented on their requested budget for FY'2017, asking for \$25,000 - \$13,500 for treatment of Holland Pond and \$11,500 for hydroraking the

channel between Holland Pond and Lake Arcadia. These expenditures are based on the recommendations of the lake consultant that completed the report that was funded in F Y'2016.

- Discussion of a \$69,000 stormwater project – funded with a \$49,000 grant, \$7,000 from the Lakes Committee, and remainder from the Department of Public Works.
- When questioned if one of the two projects is more important or if both projects need to be done at the same time, Ms. Connolly indicated that Holland Pond has 40% coverage of invasive species, but there is no active permit to do treatments. She indicated that the treatment of Holland Pond is more important.

Old Business – Computing

- Mr. Hannon presented on the Town's computing needs. He explained that the School Department's emails are being moved to a separate system.
- The maintenance line in the Computing budget is for program licenses, primarily Munis.
- He indicated that the Town is continually in need of a new server, indicating that in FY'2016, they replaced a server and some switching.

Old Business – Fire Department

- Chief Bock presented on the Fire Department's budget request. He indicated that if two full time positions are added, then the Department can accept more ambulance calls.
- Discussion of the need for the Ladder Truck as Chief Bock explained that the Fire Department cannot reach the upper levels of some of the taller buildings. He indicated that a fire truck is up for replacement this year, but he suggested looking to put that money towards the platform/ladder truck. Discussion of possible bonding for this purchase as Chief Bock predicted the cost at \$1.4 million.

Old Business – Department of Public Works

- Mr. Williams presented on the Department of Public Works' budget request. Mr. Williams indicated that the Transfer Station has been underfunded for some time and has been relying on funds from recycling and grants, but they may need to raise fees.
- Discussion of the Animal Control Center that will take an additional \$12,000 to run as it will be three times the size and will have service contracts, monitoring, heating, etc.
- Discussion of possibly increasing the dog license fee.
- Oil is locked in for FY'2017 at \$1.46/gallon and diesel at \$1.41/gallon.
- Town is \$70,000 in the black on the snow and ice budget.
- Town has met or exceeded usage targets on the Siemens contract.
- Discussion of the stormwater project and Mr. Williams explained that the water quality grant had a 20% match and that the funds had already been reserved in the budget.

Old Business – Patrick Center Committee Update

- Town gave authorization to purchase the property at Special Town Meeting. New legislation enabling the Town to purchase the property would need to be enacted, but it has already been read in the legislature.
- Mr. Brougham indicated that an exact purchase amount is needed for the warrant. The appraisal was for \$348,000 when appraised locally, but would take \$250,000 to \$500,000 to get the property suitable for use or \$75,000 for demolition as there is asbestos and lead paint.

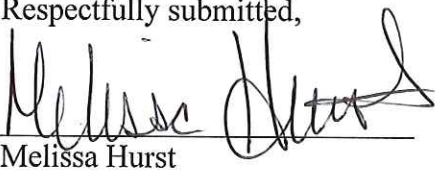
Other Business

- Ms. Raymer reminded the Finance Committee of the Pathfinder meeting on March 16, 2016, to learn of the school’s FY’2017 budget. Ms. Raymer and Ms. Hurst plan to attend.
- Ms. Raymer detailed a discussion with Tom Laughner from the School Committee’s Budget Subcommittee, indicating that they are currently proposing a 5% increase and will present next week to the School Committee. Finance Committee agreed to propose March 29, 2016 meeting with the School Committee if their schedule allows.
- Scheduled subsequent Finance Committee meetings for April 7, 2016 and April 14, 2016.

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 9:48pm.

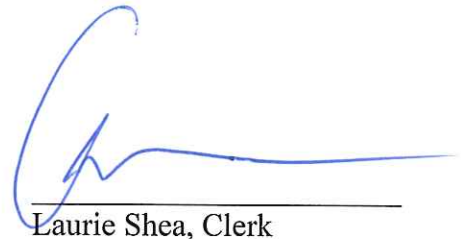
Respectfully submitted,

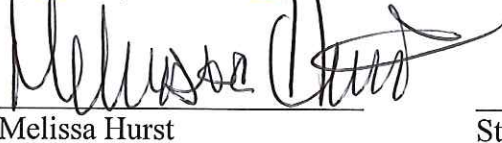

Melissa Hurst

FINCOM Town of Belchertown (Endorsed by majority)


Lynne Raymer, Chair

Edward Boscher, Vice Chair


Laurie Shea, Clerk


Melissa Hurst

Steven Rose