



TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN

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



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

Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2017
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: Lawrence Memorial Hall
Present: Edward Boscher, Melissa Hurst, Laurie Shea, Steven Rose, Lynne Raymer
Selectmen: George Archible, Brenda Aldrich, Nicholas O'Connor, Ronald Aponte, William Barnett
School District Representatives: Karol Coffin, Edward Dunn, Dr. Thomas Laughner, Dr. Michael Knapp, Jeff Charron
Guests: Gary Brougham, Jill Panto, Kyle Thibeault

- Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

Transfers

None.

Old Business:

None noted.

New Business:

Karol Coffin, Superintendent, Belchertown Public Schools, presented the district's proposed FY18 budget. Ms. Coffin reviewed DESE's RADAR program and spoke to some reporting requirements regarding administration classifications. Ms. Coffin noted some substantial changes to the Model Pre-School program which would result in a revenue net positive. Ms. Raymer asked Mr. Dunn if he have factored a 70/30 or 75/25 split for health insurance premiums in the proposed budget and he indicated he had used the 70/30 split formula. The group discussed this had a potential cost saving of approximately \$200,000 to the schools budget if the contract negotiations resulted in a 75/25 split. Ms. Shea asked Mr. Dunn if the benefits/fringe for the seven new positions in the budget being presented were already blended into the benefits line and he asserted they were, along with an additional cushion. It was also noted that 19% of students are on an IEP, a figure that has nearly doubled in the last few

years, and that the Director of Teaching and Learning's position was funded from School Choice revenue. Mr. Boscher reaffirmed to the group that expenditures of School Choice funds are discretionary to the school. Further group discussion of the proposed budget continued.

Kyle Thibeault, Recreation Director, presented the proposed FY18 budget for the Recreation Department. A group discussion followed and the focus became allocating approximately \$20,000 in funding to create a Disc Golf course to promote tourism and help support small business.

The Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee discussed all the information presented and revisited the FY17 Certified Free Cash. The Finance Committee supports the following:

Of the \$881,000 Certified Free Cash -

- \$550,000 back to the Stabilization Fund
- \$10,000 to OPEB

Of the remaining \$321,000 -

- 56%, approximately \$179,000, of the Free Cash was due to Town Department returns and will be allocated to the Town's FY18 expenses.
- The remainder of \$142,000 will be split between the Town Departments and the School Department, with each receiving \$71,000.

The Finance Committee also supports a \$100,000 withdrawal from Stabilization for FY18 to be split \$50,000 to both the School Department and the Town's Departments.

Of the anticipated \$40,535,000 revenue available for FY 18, the funds would be allocated as follows:

- School Department is \$28,162,000
- Town Departments is \$12,373,000

Other Business:

None noted.

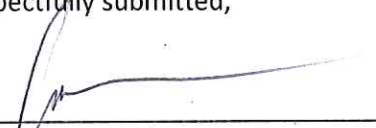
Next Meeting:

- Thursday, March 30, 2017, at 7:00 PM; Lawrence Memorial Hall Auditorium

Adjournment:

- Mr. Boscher called to adjourn
- Ms. Shea motioned, Mr. Boucher seconded
- Meeting adjourned at 9:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

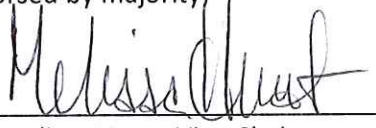


Laurie Shea, Clerk


FINCOM Town of Belchertown (Endorsed by majority)




Edward Boscher, Chairman



Melissa Hurst, Vice-Chairman



Laurie Shea, Clerk



Steven Rose

Lynne Raymer

