

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: Monday, September 18, 2017

Time: 7:00pm

Location: Lawrence Memorial Hall

Present: Steven Rose, Lynne Raymer, Melissa Hurst, Edward Boscher

Guest(s): Gary Brougham, Jill Panto, Ron Aponte, Nick O'Connor, Karol Coffin, Michael Knapp, Myndi Bogdanovich

- Meeting called to order.

Tri-Board Business

- Discussion of the School Department's transferring funds from other budget lines into School Choice funds that can carryover into the next fiscal year.
 - Schools had budgeted for the cost of living adjustment for new contracts for staff in FY17. Some union contracts are not yet finalized for the Schools.
 - Schools were told by Business Manager Ed Dunn that the only carryover option for the funds was through School Choice.
 - Discussion that the transfers were made, not out of salary lines, but rather out of technology, supplies, etc. Schools indicated that the funds were allocated across multiple lines in the prior fiscal year to due to the negotiations with the unions.
 - Mr. Knapp explained that School Choice funds were not designed to fund operational expenses, but are being used for such expenses. He said that the School Choice funds are to be used for capital expenses.
- Discussion of challenges expected for FY19.
 - Schools indicated that the Kindergarten class enrollment is up to 158, when it had been 142 the prior year.

- Schools indicated an intention to increase the Belchertown High School graduation requirements as they are currently below the Massachusetts Core Recommendations. They indicated that most would not have a budgetary impact, except a likely need if/when a one year of the arts requirement is added.
- Mr. Aponte indicated that the struggles include the economic climate and state funding. He said that locally, the Christopher Heights project will be on the tax rolls soon, as well as other local projects. Discussion of insurance increases. New growth is stable.
- Discussion of creation of new policies, particularly for OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits).

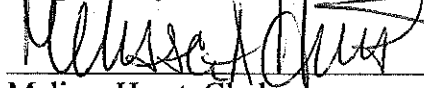
Finance Committee Business

- Ms. Hurst distributed minutes from the July 5, 2017 meeting, but insufficient members attending that meeting were present at this meeting, so the vote to accept the minutes was not taken at this time.
- Ms. Hurst distributed minutes from the August 8, 2017 meeting. Ms. Raymer moved to accept the minutes of the August 8, 2017 meeting. Mr. Rose seconded. Minutes were accepted 3-0-1.
- Mr. O'Connor is the Finance Committee's liaison from the Select Board for this fiscal year.
- Discussion that change in health insurance contributions from staff will begin as to Town employees in October. The teachers' contract with the new contribution percentage has been signed.
- Discussion of the Finance Committee email. Requesting that the emails to this account be blind carbon copied to Committee members.
- Mr. Boscher moved that the Finance Committee approve payment of the Committee's \$210 dues for membership in the Association of Town Finance Committees. Mr. Rose seconded. Committee voted 4-0-0 for payment to be made.
- Discussion of OPEB policy. Ms. Raymer suggested using the prior year's meal tax receipt amount in determining the annual OPEB payment as this would be a certain amount, rather than a projection. Ms. Raymer agreed to start drafting policies for review.
- Scheduled next Finance Committee meeting for Wednesday, October 18, 2017 at 7pm.

Adjournment

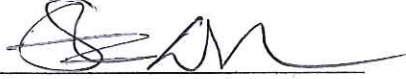
- Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

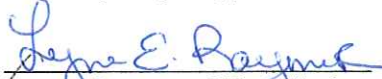


 Melissa Hurst, Clerk

FINCOM Town of Belchertown (Endorsed by majority)



Steven Rose, Chair

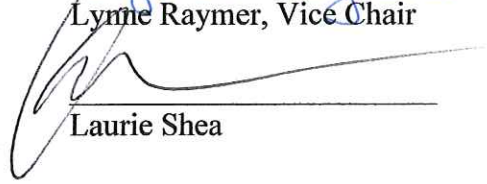


Lynne Raymer, Vice Chair



Melissa Hurst, Clerk

Edward Boscher



Laurie Shea

