

Town of Longmeadow

Minutes of the Finance Committee for January 8, 2020

Longmeadow Fire Department

Finance Committee Members Present; Maury Garrett Jr.- Chairperson, Eileen Morin – Clerk, William Welch, Chaya Kosofsky, Tom Dignazio, Donald Griffith

Visitors: Paul Pasterczyk, Finance Director

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm

Visitor Comments: None

The Finance Committee voted to accept the minutes of the October 25, 2019 meeting. Voted 5-0-2 (Lam and Kosofsky abstained).

Mr. Pasterczyk discussed with the Finance Committee (FC) the FY 2021 budget calendar in order that they coordinate their meetings and information flow accordingly. It was agreed that the Finance Committee would attend the February 18th meeting of the Select Board where the School Committee was expected to present their FY 21 budget request. Upon completion of the School budget presentation, the FC would subsequently meet thereafter at a different location. The FY 21 budget calendar outlined the remaining deadlines dealing with budget and warrant article submission. Mr. Pasterczyk assured the FC that they would receive the Town Manager's proposed FY 21 budget proposal when the Select Board received the same. Mr. Pasterczyk committed to providing the FC with a draft of the May Annual Town Meeting warrant, as it stood, for their February 18th meeting along with a listing of any other known proposed warrant article.

Mr. Pasterczyk provided the FC with an overview of where he thought the FY 21 budget stood. Mr. Pasterczyk explained that the original October 2019 budget projection showed a deficit of \$677K and that the non-school departmental budget requests received to date were another \$1 million higher than projected. Mr. Pasterczyk mentioned to the FC that the FY 21 retirement assessment came in above the projection when historically it had been lower than projected. State Aid numbers for the Student Opportunity Act were not looking great for Longmeadow and that it was now expected that the Ch. 70 estimate would be lower than projected in Mr. Pasterczyk opinion. The Governor would be releasing his proposed State Aid numbers later in January. It was also noted that the FY 21 School budget request would not be known until early February and the Health Ins. rates would be discussed towards the end of February,

Mr. Dignazio proved the FC an update on the recent meeting of the Tax Rate Ceiling Taskforce. It was explained that the Taskforce was committed to legislative relief and discussed the pros and cons of a statewide local option proposal vs a "Home Rule" proposal.

The Committee voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:44pm (7-0)

Respectfully submitted

Eileen Morin, Clerk