

Town of Longmeadow

Minutes of the Finance Committee for May 28, 2020

Teleconference

Finance Committee Members present: Maury Garrett-Chair, Andrew Lam-Vice-Chair, Eileen Morin-Clerk, Donald E. Griffith and William Welch (7:08)

Finance Committee Members absent: Chaya Kosofsky and Tom Dignazio

Visitors: Paul Pasterczyk-Finance Director and Peter Landon-Audit Committee

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of April 27, 2020 as presented (4-0 in favor)

Discussions:

- Paul Pasterczyk gave the Finance Committee (FC) an update on recent Select Board discussions including actions they considered to produce a balanced budget (removing certain capital projects, etc.) and their preference to not use Excess Capacity, if possible, to maintain the Stabilization Fund (“rainy day” fund). In addition, two Public Forums will be conducted via Zoom on 6/8/20 and 6/22/20 for the public to ask questions regarding the Warrant Articles.
- The FY21 Warrant has been printed. The School Committee had not yet met to discuss their actions regarding the Select Board’s recommended \$350,000 decrease in expenditures so their final budget proposal is not included in the Warrants.
- The MA state budget will not be completed by the date of the Annual Town Meeting so impacts from an expected reduction in state aid remain an estimate.
- A new Article was added to the printed Warrants (#14) which deals with a home rule proposal for raising the tax levy limit. Though the Finance Committee will not vote on this article, it will consider giving an opinion at the Annual Meeting. Andrew Lam offered to write an article for publication in The Town Reminder newspaper to discuss the pros and cons of the Article.
- Paul Pasterczyk provided some additional information regarding debt service. The sale of school bonds resulted in a savings of \$172K annually for the next 13 years or approximately \$2.24 million in total. The Department of Public Works construction will add \$162K as well as \$118K for the new Senior Center. The net result is an increase in debt service of \$108K which will be voted on at the Fall Public Meeting.
- The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday June 18, 2020 at 7:00 pm

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 8:30 pm (5-0 in favor)

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Morin, Clerk