

Finance Committee
Budget Hearing Meeting
Tuesday, June 18, 2019
Time: 5:45 p.m. Room 315
Brent Bean, Chair – Dan Allie – John Beltrandi

Attendance: John Beltrandi, Brent Bean, Dan Allie, Cindy Harris, Mary Ann Babinski, Mike Burns, Andrew Surprise, Nick Morganelli, Matt Emmershly, Cindy Harris, Ralph Figy, Peter Currier, Bill Onyski, Joseph Rouse, Matthew Barnes, Chris Caputo, Tammy Tefft, Patrick Egloff

Recording meeting: Peter Currier, Westfield News & Matt Emmershly, City Council

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Agenda

Health – 5:45 p.m.

Joseph Rouse, Head of Department

Joe was asked to give the finance committee an overview of his budget and hit on anything he felt was important to address by Brent. Questions posed to Joe came from Onyski, Babinski, Emmershly, Morganelli, Allie, Beltrandi, Bean. Discussion about the landfill and sourcing that serve was discussed, as well as opening the landfill up to other kinds of trash, creating a rail spur, increasing tons per day permit, and opening it up to other communities in hopes to generate funds. Cost of trash increasing 3%. Questions raised about selling bags, where to sell, costs.

Treasurer – 6:15 p.m.

Matthew Barnes, Head of Department

Matt was asked to give the finance committee an overview of his budget and hit on anything he felt was important to address by Brent. Questions posed to Matt came from Emmershly, Onyski, Babinski, Morganelli, Allie, Bean. Matt talked about the health of the City and our bonding schedule. Bonding is a little tied do to the City building a new elementary in a year but said the City was in good health with AA rating. Considering credit card terminal. Discussed debt decline stabilization fund, and options of a written plan for funding OPEB obligations in order to get a better return. City on track for fully funding pensions.

Auditor – 6:45 p.m.

Christopher Caputo, Head of Department

Chris was asked to give the finance committee an overview of his budget and hit on anything he felt was important to address by Brent. Questions posed to Chris came from Bean, Emmershly, Onyski, Allie, Figy. Chris expressed some concerns about the City reaching its levy ceiling and cautioned the committee.

Purchasing – 7:00 p.m.

Tammy Tefft, Head of Department

Tammy was asked to give the finance committee an overview of his budget and hit on anything he felt was important to address by Brent. Questions posed to Tammy came from Babinski, Morganelli, Allie, Beltrandi, Bean, Emmershly. Tammy told the committee that the City has been doing a lot of construction project. It has been a busy few years. We are lacking personnel to help manage projects. The importance of people watching over those projects like road construction or facility maintenance is important because we need to know that we are getting what we paid for. The bid laws of the Commonwealth were discussed, cost of doing business in Massachusetts is very high.

Fire – 7:30 p.m.

Patrick Egloff, Head of Department

Pat was asked to give the finance committee an overview of his budget and hit on anything he felt was important to address by Brent. Chief discussed Capital Plan for vehicles, 2 new ambulances from ambulance account. Buying new Command vehicle and place existing one into Fire Prevention. Surplus Fire prevention truck and training vehicle. Replace Brush truck and Zodiac Rescue boat and Chief's vehicle. Buy 2 new generators. Surplus Sackett Street building and underground fuel tank removal at HQ in FY21. Questions posed to Pat came from Onyski, Babinski, Morganelli, Allie, Beltrandi, Bean, Figy

Adjourned: 7:55 p.m.

