# FINANCE COMMITTEE Minutes

Date: October 28, 2019 Time: 6:30 p.m.

Present: Noonan, Kupcinskas, Kuphal, Kennedy, Cofske, Cooney, O'Connell

Absent: None

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Motioned by Kupcinskas, seconded by Cooney to accept the minutes of October 21, 2019 as written. Unanimous.

Motioned by Kupcinskas, seconded by Kennedy to open the Public Hearing at 6:32 p.m. Unanimous.

Michael O'Connor: I want to talk about the 2 School Projects. How this is being financed is an important part of these articles. The Finance Department gave the building committee a breakdown on how it would be a fixed payment over 30 years. Every household has received this information. The Finance Director explained to the Board of Selectmen that it would be financed on a fixed principal payment schedule rather than a fixed payment schedule, which changes the tax rate from \$1.19 per thousand to \$1.53 per thousand. Also, the people need to know that the motion on the floor will be for \$61 Million not \$36 Million. With a Fixed Payment borrowing, the Town would pay an additional \$2.7 Million over the 30 years, but with a Fixed Principal the Town would be paying more per year for the first 13 years. The impact on households in the early years will be more than that in the last decade of the 30 year Fixed Principal payment program. The Fixed Payment plan is more favorable to the taxpayer in the early years. The original plan given to the building committee should be what is brought before the Town. David Cofske: This is a good synopsis on what is going on with these projects. There are many more Chris Kennedy: Do we want to pay more upfront or pay more interest expense in the long term. Michael O'Connor: The Junior/Senior High School was on a fixed payment plan.

James Kelley: The determination of the bond is exclusively between the Treasurer/Collector, the Finance Director and the Board of Selectmen. This is by statute.

Michael O'Connor: We have gone two months and told everyone in Town how it was being financed. Now it is being changed two weeks before the meeting.

Andrew Vanni: I was told, in June, that it was \$33,500,000. That was the last I heard until we got this new figure. I didn't know that we were advertising the dollar amount. I was waiting to meet with the School Buildings Committee.

Kevin Kuphal: What is the Town's intent to how this is going to be financed?

David Cofske: Which way is this getting presented to the Town?

Kevin Kuphal: If we don't know how this is going to be done, we will need both versions ready for the

Town Meeting.

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John Adams: I think it would be a shame to let this project go. I just don't like the way it was handled. I would like this presented with the best interest of the taxpayers.

James Kelley: We BAN the construction notes until the construction is completed. At that time the Finance Director would, in conjunction with the Board of Selectmen, make the decision on how it is getting bonded.

Chris Kennedy: What figure per thousand is going to be presented to the taxpayers at Town Meeting?

Jen Netupski: This needs to be presented as a fixed payment as we have always done.

Chris Kennedy: Who is presenting this?

Kaye Peltier: The numbers are going to change anyway. This figure includes the \$550,000 for the feasibility study.

Jen Netupski: We will be receiving a monthly check from the MSBC.

James Kelley: There are some public safety issues at the current school.

Albert Kupcinskas: The residents have already been told that the increase is about \$1.21. If we have a number at Town Meeting, we can update them.

Resident: What does it cost to retrofit what is already there?

Andrew Vanni: That would cost about \$30Million. The Town would have to foot the entire bill.

Resident: When are you going to tell me what the rate is going to be? People need to know how much their taxes are going up. We just started getting information on this project.

John Adams: I could not vote to a fixed principal payment.

Chris Kennedy: Concerning our borrowing abilities, would we still be able borrow for a Public Safety Building?

Andrew Vanni: Yes, we would.

Chris Kennedy: We have two projects going. We have athletic fields at the High School and at the Shaw School.

Jen O'Connell: If the fields don't pass and you put in for a separate article in the spring, what would it cost?

Pat Mara: It would be in the six figures. I don't have the amount tonight.

Chris Kennedy: The intent is for us to endorse or not endorse the articles on the Warrant.

James Kelley: Your Committee asked that the Supervisor of the DPW be here to discuss the purchase/lease of the Ford Escape.

David Cofske: Why wasn't this in your budget?

Keith Caruso: It was in there and was taken out. I planned on putting it on next year's budget but with the Special Town Meeting coming up, I put it in there.

Jen O'Connell: Why the Ford Escape?

Keith Caruso: Right now we are using a Nissan Leaf. The battery is only good for 100 miles. This vehicle would be for the Director once one is put in place.

Jen O'Connell: How much is the Escape?

Keith Caruso: It is about \$24,500.

Jen O'Connell asked for dollar amounts for each piece of equipment mentioned in the article.

Nicole Cooney: When you were in for the additional people, I specifically asked if there were enough pieces of equipment for them to run.

Keith Caruso: We do have enough equipment. These have a lot of hours on them.

Motioned by Kupcinskas, seconded by Noonan to close the public hearing at 7:35 p.m. Unanimous.

# SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT RECOMMENDATIONS

Article 1-McCracken Road TIP Project

Jen O'Connell: Where is this money coming from?

James Kelley: Of the total, \$386,000 would be raised and appropriated and \$1,400,000 would be a BAN.

This would be to fund the engineering and taking of property.

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Kupcinskas to recommend to raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds the sum of \$1,786,000 for the purpose of Article 1. Unanimous.

Article 2-Downtown Stormwater Drainage Project-MS4

David Cofske: Why are you coming back for more money? We have been putting in money for a couple of years.

James Kelley: There are matching funds that the State is giving us.

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Kupcinskas to recommend that \$18,000 be raised and appropriated, transferred from available funds for the purpose of Article 2. Unanimous.

Article 3-Sewer Line for McCracken Road Project

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Kupcinskas to recommend that \$100,000 be transferred from the Sewer Stabilization Fund for the purpose of Article 3. Unanimous.

Article 4-Sewer Division Laborer

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Kupcinskas to recommend that \$20,550 be transferred from the Sewer Stabilization Fund for the purposes of Article 4. Unanimous.

Article 5-Operation of Sewer System

Gary Nelson: This was in our budget when it was first given to the Town Manager. I didn't get a chance to explain my budget.

James Kelley: The number that was used was from a previous year. This will correct it.

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Kupcinskas to recommend that \$306,700 be raised and appropriated, transferred or otherwise provided to the Sewer Enterprise Fund for the purpose of Article 5. Unanimous.

Article 6-Athletic Fields

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Kupcinskas to recommend that \$4,950,834 be raised and appropriated, transferred from available funds or otherwise provided for the purpose of Article 6. Unanimous.

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Kupcinskas to rescind the previous vote. Unanimous.

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Kupcinskas to recommend that the Town of Millbury appropriate the amount of Four Million Nine Hundred Fifty Thousand, Eight Hundred Thirty-Four (\$4,950,834) Dollars for the purpose of the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto the renovation of the Jr./Sr. High School's athletic facilities and related materials and equipment located at 12 Martin Street, or take any action thereon. Said amount shall be expended under the direction of the Millbury Public School Department. To meet this appropriation, the Town of Millbury is authorized to borrow said amount under M.G.L. Chapter 44 or pursuant to any other enabling authority.

Chris Kennedy: We have the ability to borrow. We need to invest in the future of Millbury.

# Article 7-Shaw School Project

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Kupcinskas to recommend that the Town of Millbury appropriate the amount of Sixty Million Nine Hundred Twenty Two Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty One (\$60,922,761.00) Dollars for the purpose of paying costs of a new R.E. Shaw Elementary School located at 58 Elmwood Street, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which school facility shall have an anticipated useful life as an educational facility for the instruction of school children for at least 50 years, and for which the Town of Millbury may be eligible for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended under the direction of R.E. Shaw School Building Committee. To meet this appropriation the Town of Millbury is authorized to borrow said amount under M.G.L. Chapter 44 or pursuant to any other enabling authority. The Town of Millbury acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any grant that the Town of Millbury may receive from the MSBA for the Project shall not exceed the lesser of (1) 61.37 Percent (%) of eligible, approved project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA;[provided that any appropriation hereunder shall be subject to and contingent upon an affirmative vote of the Town to exempt the amounts required for the payment of interest and principal on said borrowing from the limitations on taxes imposed by M.G.L.59, Section 21C (Proposition 2 ½)]; and that the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the Town of Millbury and the MSBA. Unanimous.

Chris Kennedy: I reiterate what I said from Article 6 for this article.

Article 8-Retroactive increases

Jen O'Connell: The contracts were not settled when funds were raised last year.

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Kupcinskas to recommend that \$17,000 be raised and appropriated, transferred from available funds or otherwise provided for the purpose of Article 8. Unanimous.

Article 9-Zoning Bylaw Codification and Re-Codification

James Kelley: This is for the legal consultants' cost to do this work.

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Kupcinskas to recommend that \$25,000 be raised and appropriated, transferred from available funds or otherwise provided for the purpose of Article 9. Unanimous.

**Article 10-Emergency Management** 

Jen O'Connell: This is FEMA money.

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Kupcinskas to recommend that \$68,000 be raised and appropriated, transferred from available funds or otherwise provided for the purpose of Article 10. Unanimous.

#### Article 11-Tree Warden

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Kupcinskas to recommend that \$36,000 be raised and appropriated, transferred from available or otherwise provided for the purpose of Article 11. Unanimous.

# Article 12-DPW Lease Vehicles

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Kupcinskas to recommend that \$85,000 be raised and appropriated, transferred from available funds or otherwise provided for the purpose of Article 12. Jen O'Connell: I am against purchasing the Escape.

O'Connell opposed, rest for.

# Article 13-Asa Waters Asbestos Removal

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Kupcinskas to recommend that \$18,000 be raised and appropriated, transferred from available funds or otherwise provided for the purpose of Article 13. Unanimous.

Motioned by Kupcinskas, seconded by Kuphal to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. Unanimous.