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MILLBURY, MASS.

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Minutes
Zoom Meeting 871 4448 6667

Date: April 4, 2022

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Present: Wells, O'Connell, Kuphal, Cooper, Cooney, Pratt

Absent: None

Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Motioned by Wells, seconded by Cooney to accept the minutes of March 28, 2022 as written.
Cooper, yes; Kuphal, yes; Cooney, yes; Wells, yes; O'Connell, yes

Jen O'Connell: We will be meeting with Blackstone Valley Tech tonight, then vote on the Warrant and the Budget. I hope to get it all done tonight.

Dr. Fitzpatrick, Superintendent of BVT and Chet Hanratty were in to discuss their budget.

Dr. Fitzpatrick: When we prepare our budget in January, we only have the Governor's House 1 budget to work with. You have an additional 7 students in this budget. That brings Millbury to a total of 103 students.

Russell Wells: Is the 103 a constant number or does it tend to go up and down?

Chet Hanratty: We were at 65 a few years ago. It seems to be trending up.

Dr. Fitzpatrick: The State bases their numbers on the amount of students on October 1st. We have 3 years left on the debt. We also maintain an excess/deficiency account, similar to your Free Cash. We received over 90% back for regional transportation. We applied money from both of these accounts to help control our budget. Also, our staff is very flexible about helping with improvements in our building.

Russell Wells: Have you changed our strategy on taking in students?

Dr. Fitzpatrick: Yes, we have. We lowered the academic standards. We also started a new 2 year drafting program. This is offered to students in 11th and 12th grades. Our total budget represents a 4.9% increase.

Jen O'Connell: Do you charge any fees to the students?

Dr. Fitzpatrick: We charge \$50 for any sport, with the exception of hockey. That cost \$300.

Russell Wells: Do you have any major capital projects coming up?

Chet Hanratty: We have 2 projects. One is a new roof and the other is a new Veterinary program startup.

Nicole Cooney: How much of your budget goes back into your "kitty"?

Chet Hanratty: No more than 5%.

Dr. Fitzpatrick: I also wanted to let you know that we have a new Plumbing instructor this year.

Jen O'Connell: How did you figure in the fuel in this budget?

Dr. Fitzpatrick: There is a clause in the fuel contract. If the price is lower than what we negotiated, we get the lower price. It will not go over the contracted price. There is a 5.6% increase in transportation

Russell Wells: Has your Special Ed budget grown?

Dr. Fitzpatrick: Yes, it has. Unlike the public schools, our numbers are predictable.

Warrant Article Recommendations

Sean Hendricks: I just want to let you know that we need everything by the 18th, at the latest.

Article 3-Elder Services

Jen O'Connell: Wasn't this originally \$20,000?

Jennifer Barrett: Over the past 2 years, we haven't used that much. We dropped it to \$10,000. It may end up going back to \$20,000 in the future.

Sean Hendricks: Because of COVID, many of our elders weren't taking the chance of coming out.

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Cooney to recommend that Article 3 be accepted as written. Wells, yes; Pratt, yes; Cooney, yes; Kuphal, yes; Cooper, yes; O'Connell, yes

Article 4-PEG Access and Cable Related Fund

Russell Wells: Are the fees based on actual cable in Town?

Sean Hendricks: Yes, it is. We have 2 cable companies in the town. Spectrum wants a 5 year agreement and Verizon wants a 10 year agreement.

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Cooney to recommend that Article 4 be accepted as written. Wells, yes; Pratt, yes; Cooney, yes; Kuphal, yes; Cooper, yes; O'Connell, yes

Article 5-Authorization of a new Revolving Fund

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Cooney to recommend that Article 5 be accepted as written. Wells, yes; Pratt, yes; Cooney, yes; Kuphal, yes; Cooper, yes; O'Connell, yes

Article 6-Revolving Funds and Spending Caps

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Cooney to recommend that Article 6 be accepted as written. Wells, yes; Pratt, yes; Cooney, yes; Kuphal, yes; Cooper, yes; O'Connell, yes

Article 7-Reauthorization of funds from prior articles

Nicole Cooney: Will the amount for the Transfer Station be enough or will you have to come back for more?

Sean Hendricks: We believe it will be enough.

Russell Wells: What are we gaining by using the compactors?

Sean Hendricks: We would make less trips with the trucks.

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Cooney to recommend that Article 7 be accepted as written. Wells, yes; Pratt, yes; Cooney, yes; Kuphal, yes; Cooper, yes; O'Connell, yes

Article 8-Sewer Pump Station Improvements

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Cooney to recommend that Article 8 be deferred to the Sewer Commissioners. Wells, yes; Pratt, yes; Cooney, yes; Kuphal, yes; Cooper, yes; O'Connell, yes

Article 9-Sewer Stabilization Fund

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Cooney to recommend that Article 9 be deferred to the Sewer Commissioners. Wells, yes; Pratt, yes; Cooney, yes; Kuphal, yes; Cooper, yes; O'Connell, yes

Article 10-Stabilization Fund

Jen O'Connell: We need to maintain this account to an amount equal to 10% of the total general fund revenues for next year.

Sean Hendricks: Jennifer and I will be revamping this policy.

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Cooney to recommend that Article 10 be accepted as written. Wells, yes; Pratt, yes; Cooney, yes; Kuphal, yes; Cooper, yes; O'Connell, yes

Article 11-OPEB Trust Account

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Cooney to recommend that Article 11 be accepted as written. Wells, yes; Pratt, yes; Cooney, yes; Kuphal, yes; Cooper, yes; O'Connell, yes

Article 12-Chapter 90 Supplement

Jennifer Barrett: There is a \$1.5 Million balance.

Nicole Cooney: Did you get additional Chapter 90 Funds this year?

Sean Hendricks: We did not.

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Cooney to recommend that Article 12 be accepted as written. Wells, yes; Pratt, yes; Cooney, yes; Kuphal, yes; Cooper, yes; O'Connell, yes

Article 13-Health Insurance Stabilization

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Cooney to recommend that Article 13 be accepted as written. Wells, yes; Pratt, yes; Cooney, yes; Kuphal, yes; Cooper, yes; O'Connell, yes

Article 14-Compensated Absences Reserve Fund

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Cooney to recommend that Article 14 be accepted as written. Wells, yes; Pratt, yes; Cooney, yes; Kuphal, yes; Cooper, yes; O'Connell, yes

Article 15-Jr/Sr High School Athletic Fields

Jen O'Connell: Was this project on budget?

Jennifer Barrett: Yes, it was. This amount will cover the cost of the fields.

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Cooney to recommend that the sum of \$447,463.60 be transferred from available funds to pay costs of renovating the Junior/Sr. High School's athletic fields, and the cost associated with Article 15. Wells, yes; Pratt, yes; Cooney, yes; Kuphal, yes; Cooper, yes; O'Connell, yes

Article 16-Capital Improvement Projects and Purchases

Line A-Abandoned Properties Revolving Fund-\$30,000

Everyone was in agreement on this item

Line B-MPS Marching Band-\$30,000

Kevin Kuphal: Do we know what this entails?

Sean Hendricks: This would be for uniforms, instruments, music stands etc.

Everyone was in agreement on this item

Line C-MPS Information Technology-\$225,000

Sean Hendricks: This is the final installment

Everyone was in agreement on this item

Line D-DPW Two Pickup Trucks\$120,000

Jen O'Connell: Why are we looking for 2 trucks?

Sean Hendricks: This was based on personnel. The more trucks we have, the more work areas we can cover. They will also be part of the fleet for plowing. This would be one replacement vehicle and one additional vehicle.

Everyone was in agreement on this item

Line E-MPD Dispatch Radio Console-\$60,000

Everyone was in agreement on this item

Line F-Town Manager Veterans Memorial-\$100,000

Jen O'Connell: What is being done with this amount of money?

Sean Hendricks: We have nothing in the memorial post Korean War. This would be for 3 memorials and the site work. We are trying to combine some of the wars.

Kevin Kuphal: Can we spread out the cost over a couple of years?

Sean Hendricks: We could do that.

Charles Cooper: Are there any grants or any other funding to help with this?

Sean Hendricks: No there is not.

Wells, yes; Pratt, yes; Cooney, yes; Cooper, yes; Kuphal, no; O'Connell, no

Line G-Fire Department Tanker Truck-\$575,000

Everyone was in agreement on this item

Line H-FY22 Snow and Ice Deficit-\$225,000

Everyone was in agreement on this item

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Pratt to recommend that Article 16 be accepted as written. Wells, yes; Pratt, yes; Cooney, yes; Kuphal, yes; Cooper, yes; O'Connell, yes

Article 17-Fire Headquarters Borrowing

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Cooney to recommend that Article 17 be deferred to the Fire Headquarters Building Committee. Wells, yes; Pratt, yes; Cooney, yes; Kuphal, yes; Cooper, yes; O'Connell, yes

Article 18-Police Department Civil Service

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Cooney to recommend that Article 18 be deferred to the Chief of Police. Wells, yes; Pratt, yes; Cooney, yes; Kuphal, yes; Cooper, yes; O'Connell, yes

Article 19-Millbury Home Rule Charter Section 1-7

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Cooney to recommend that Article 19 be deferred to the Charter Review Committee. Wells, yes; Pratt, yes; Cooney, yes; Kuphal, yes; Cooper, yes; O'Connell, yes

Article 20-Millbury Home Rule Charter Section 3

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Cooney to recommend that Article 20 be deferred to the Charter Review Committee. Wells, yes; Pratt, yes; Cooney, yes; Kuphal, yes; Cooper, yes; O'Connell, yes

Article 21-Millbury Home Rule Charter Section 7-6

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Cooney to recommend that Article 21 be deferred to the Charter Review Committee. Wells, yes; Pratt, yes; Cooney, yes; Kuphal, yes; Cooper, yes; O'Connell, yes

Article 22-Millbury Home Rule Charter Section 8-5

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Cooney to recommend that Article 22 be deferred to the Charter Review Committee. Wells, yes; Pratt, yes; Cooney, yes; Kuphal, yes; Cooper, yes; O'Connell, yes

Article 23-Millbury Home Rule Charter Section 8-1 and Article 7

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Cooney to recommend that Article 23 be deferred to the Charter Review Committee. Wells, yes; Pratt, yes; Cooney, yes; Kuphal, yes; Cooper, yes; O'Connell, yes

Article 24-Millbury Home Rule Charter Article 7

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Cooney to recommend that Article 24 be deferred to the Charter Review Committee. Wells, yes; Pratt, yes; Cooney, yes; Kuphal, yes; Cooper, yes; O'Connell, yes

Article 25-Millbury Home Rule Charter Section 3-1

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Cooney to recommend that Article 25 be deferred to the Charter Review Committee. Wells, yes; Pratt, yes; Cooney, yes; Kuphal, yes; Cooper, yes; O'Connell, yes

Article 26-Zoning-Rezoning Suburban II District

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Cooney to recommend that Article 26 be deferred to the Planning Board. Wells, yes; Pratt, yes; Cooney, yes; Kuphal, yes; Cooper, yes; O'Connell, yes

Article 27-Moratorium on Multi-Family Dwellings

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Cooney to recommend that Article 27 be deferred to the Planning Board. Wells, yes; Pratt, yes; Cooney, yes; Kuphal, yes; Cooper, yes; O'Connell, yes

Article 28-Acceptance of Hilltop Drive

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Cooney to recommend that Article 28 be deferred to the Planning Board. Wells, yes; Pratt, yes; Cooney, yes; Kuphal, yes; Cooper, yes; O'Connell, yes

Jen O'Connell: Is any of the Free Cash going to be used to reduce the tax rate?

Sean Hendricks: We are using over \$500,000 for a new tanker truck. We are using \$500,000 in FY23 and \$500,000 in FY24.

The Town Budget will be voted on next Monday.

Jen O'Connell: I would like to discuss the School Budget. I feel that the number presented to us is too high. We were told that there would not be any additional staff. We haven't even finished the school and it is already up over 4%.

Sean Hendricks: The buses are in the middle of their contract. That Fixed Asset stays the same. Fuel will not be an issue with this.

Nicole Cooney: They were paid for a year without even having their services used.

Sean Hendricks: A reduction of \$200,000 would bring their percentage at about 3.75%.

Jen O'Connell: I would be happy with 3.8%.

Kevin Kuphal: I don't want to keep taking from the Municipal side to afford the schools.

Motioned by Kuphal, seconded by Wells to adjourn at 9:45 p.m. Wells, yes; Pratt, yes; Cooney, yes; Kuphal, yes; Cooper, yes; O'Connell, yes

