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MILSBURY, MASS.

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Minutes
Zoom Number 840 3896 9229

Date: March 27, 2023

Time: 6:30 p.m.

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

Absent: Cooney

Meeting called to order at 6:32 p.m.

Motioned by Cooper, seconded by Wells to accept the minutes of March 23, 2023 as written. Cooper, yes; Wells, yes; Kuphal, yes; O'Connor, yes; Pratt, yes; O'Connell, yes

Jennifer Barrett, Finance Director and Sean Hendricks, Town Manager were present at the meeting.

Scott Despres was present at the meeting

Jennifer Barrett: You voted for a dollar amount of \$30,000 for the Inspectors' warrant article. After calculating out the numbers, that amount should be fine for that article. We removed the Health Insurance 50/50 article from the Warrant. You only have the one Article to discuss and vote on. This is the new Article 19 for the Firefighters' Retirement Benefits.

Jen O'Connell: What did we learn about this?

Sean Hendricks: This article would allow the retirement board to credit permanent, intermittent call firefighters to have their years of service added to their retirement if they take on a full time position within another department of the Town. There is no dollar amount attached to this at this time.

Charles Cooper: If you have a part time person who is also a veteran, how does that affect this?

Sean Hendricks: Worcester Regional Retirement only covers a maximum amount of 4 years from the service.

Jen O'Connell: I have a problem voting for something that is going to cost us a lot in the long term.

Sean Hendricks: There are a lot of towns around us that have already adopted this.

Charles Cooper: Will this help with recruitment?

Sean Hendricks: I think it will. I have already spoken to a few people on this. Matt Belsito, who was in our Fire Department and is now the Fire Chief in Sutton, is in support of this and can get up on the Town Meeting floor to discuss this.

Article 19-Firefighters' Retirement Benefits

Motioned by O'Connell, seconded by Cooper to recommend that Article 19 be accepted as written. Cooper, yes; Wells, yes; O'Connor, yes; Kuphal, yes; Pratt, no; O'Connell, yes

Jen O'Connell: I should have asked this when we were discussing the Warrant Articles. I would like to know what Article 15-D is for. What is Digital File Archiving?

Sean Hendricks: This is archiving our documents. This is for scanning and codifying them. We would not be paying for storage.

Russell Wells: Will this be part of the budget, going forward?

Sean Hendricks: We have already started archiving current files. This will be to start archiving our older files. This is done by a third party. We tried to do it in-house, but some of the files we were not able to do.

Jen O'Connell: Are there any plans, in the next fiscal year, to change the Town Hall hours back to what they were?

Sean Hendricks: We only lost one hour a week with these hours. This has been working out well. I had inquired whether the staff wanted to go to a 4 day week or stay with the 4 1/2 days. A majority wanted to stay with the 4 1/2 days.

Jen O'Connell: Are you presenting the budget to the Board of Selectmen tomorrow night?

Sean Hendricks: Yes, I am.

Motioned by Wells, seconded by Cooper to adjourn at 6:50 p.m. Cooper, yes; Wells, yes; O'Connor, yes; Kuphal, yes; Pratt, yes; O'Connell, yes.

Judith O'Connell

Jen O'Connell

W. Pratt

Chub R. Cooper Jr

Russell Wells