

BILLERICA FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
March 4, 2021

A Meeting of the Billerica Finance Committee was held on Tuesday March 4, 2021 at 7 PM via Zoom Video Conferencing Communication App.

Present: David Gagliardi, Chairman; Douglas Meagher, Vice Chairman (late); Mary McBride, Secretary; Donald Damon, Member; Rino Moriconi, Member; Philip Newfell, Member; John Kleschinsky, Member; John Mulloy, Member; Doug Fogerty, Member; Kelley Sardina, 1st Associate; Sharon Healey, 2nd Associate; Town Accountant Paul Watson, Ex-Officio; and Joyce MacMillan, Recording Clerk (late).

Excused: Members Patrick Logue and Cheri Gargalianos are excused. Vice Chair Doug Meagher and Recording Clerk Joyce MacMillan will be coming from the Zoom CPC meeting and will be late.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman David Gagliardi called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

See Shawsheen Tech section for comment from Doreen Healey, 53 Baldwin Rd.

PRESENTATION OF FY22 SHAWSHEEN VALLEY VOCATIONAL BUDGET:

Acct. 310.

Presentation by Melanie Hagman, Business Manager & Asst. Superintendent-Director; and Bradford Jackson, Ed. D., Superintendent-Director. Taryn Gills and Ron Fusco, SVTHS School Committee Members were in attendance.

The Shawsheen Operating Budget for FY22 is projected to increased by 2.39%. Billerica's share will increase by 3%, to \$10,103,814. There will be ten fewer Shawsheen students from Billerica in FY22, but because the Town's student population has dropped, the Chapter 70 formula dictates the increase in Billerica's assessment.

Shawsheen is nearing the fork in the road, and they will need to either add or build in the current decade to address undersized shops. The building is 50 years old. Some discussion points:

*OPEB balance is \$2,987,405, and the total OPEB liability is about \$30 million.

*SVTHS's girls hockey team is ½ SVTHS students and ½ from Bedford HS. This may be why the Bedford enrollment at SVTHS is up 20% (41 from 34 LY).

*FinCom member would like one of the SVTHS School Committee members from Billerica to attend a FinCom meeting quarterly to attend our meeting to keep us up to date.

*Shawsheen will add one full time Special Education teacher in FY22 as the need in Sped is growing. This brings Shawsheen above the state requirement.

*Resident Doreen Healey spoke at Public Comment. In her opinion, Shawsheen Tech had many Special Education issues last year because of a lack of compliance.

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After much discussion, Mary McBride, seconded by Donald Damon, moved to recommend the SVTHS Budget in the amount of \$10,103,814. The roll call vote was 9-1 (Sardina).

Town Clerk: Acct. #160:

Presented by Paul Watson and Shirley Schult. The proposed Budget has an increase of .94%, due mainly to contractual obligations and a staff member change.

After some discussion, Mary McBride, seconded by Donald Damon, moved to recommend the Town Clerk's Budget in the amount of \$300,737, and it was supported in 10-0 in a unanimous roll call vote.

Elections: Acct. #161:

Presented by Paul Watson and Shirley Schult. The proposed Budget shows a decrease of 56.87% due to the reduction in elections from three to only one. Poll workers will receive increases due to the increase in the minimum wage.

Mary McBride, seconded by Rino Moriconi, moved to recommend the Elections Budget in the amount of \$58,768. The roll call vote was 8-0-2 (McBride, Gagliardi).

Registrars: Acct. #163:

Presented by Paul Watson and Shirley Schult. The proposed Budget shows an increase of 8.62%, due to contractual obligations and an addition of \$2000 to supplement the lone office employee's workload.

Mary McBride, seconded by Rino Moriconi, moved to recommend the Registrars' Budget in the amount of \$68,931, an increase of 8.62%. The roll call vote was 9-1 (Sardina).

Systems Information: Acct. #125:

MIS Director Chris Bartlett presented this department's Budget, which includes one employee, himself. The proposed FY22 Budget shows an increase of 1.1%, contractual obligations.

The Town purchased laptops for contact tracing with CARES Act money.

Doug Meagher, seconded by Mary McBride, moved to recommend the Systems Administration Budget in the amount of \$610,634. The roll call vote was unanimous, 11-0.

Town Accountant: Acct. # 135:

Town Accountant Paul Watson presented the Accounting Budget. For the first time in three years, the audit expense line will need to be increased, to \$64,000 from \$60,000.

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Watson and John Curran also explained, as noted in the Budget book, that he will retire in three years, and he has been designated a "Senior" employee of the Town. As such he is able to take advantage of a ByLaw (Article XII, Chapter 15) which triggers a 6% increase in his salary for three years but is not pensionable. The department's Budget increased 5.27%.

After discussion, Doug Meagher, seconded by Mary McBride, moved to recommend the Accountant's Budget in the amount of \$334,490. The roll call vote to 10-1 (Sardina).

Announcements:

Doug Meagher, the FinCom's representative to the Community Preservation Committee, told the committee that their advertised Public Hearing for projects is March 25 via Zoom.

The FinCom's advertised Public Hearing will be held on April 13 at 7:00 PM, also via Zoom.

Rino Moriconi, seconded by Mary McBride, moved to adjourn. The roll call vote was unanimous, 11-0.

Doug Meagher seconded by Don Damon made a motion to adjourn.

A roll call vote was taken
It was voted 11-0:

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Mary K. McBride, Secretary & Acting Recording Clerk

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