



## Billerica Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2019

### **Finance Committee Members:**

David Gagliardi, Chair	Douglas Meagher, Vice Chair	Mary K. McBride, Secretary
John Kleschinsky, 1 <sup>st</sup> Associate	Donald Damon	Douglas Fogerty
Cheri Gargalianos (7:09 PM)	Patrick Logue	Rino Moriconi
Scott Morris, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Associate	John Mulloy	Philip Newfell
	Anthony Ventresca	
Town Accountant Paul Watson, Ex-Officio		Bee Magliozzi, Recording Clerk

### **ATTENDANCE:**

13 Committee Members Present, 0 Absent. Clerk Bee Magliozzi was excused.

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

### **PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE:**

The Chair led the Committee in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

N/A

### **MEETING AUDIO RECORDING:**

The Chair informed the Committee that member Ventresca would be audio recording the meeting.

### **FY 2020 DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS:**

#### **#292 Animal Control:**

The Animal Control Budget was presented by Police Chief Dan Rosa, Lt. Commander Troy Opland, and Animal Control Officer (ACO) Christine Gualtieri.

The department has three staff members, two FT and one PT. Services are shared between Billerica and Tewksbury, and Tewksbury pays one of the FT salaries. Tewksbury reimburses

Billerica for picking up stray animals, disposal of deceased animals, and related expenses. Strays are housed in the Billerica animal shelter, which is in reasonable shape but Gualtieri is looking for a better way to insulate the dog pound, which has many doors.

Last year there were 1803 calls in Billerica, 652 in Tewksbury.

After discussion, Rino Moriconi moved to recommend the \$100,636 Budget, seconded by Patrick Logue. The vote was 10-0-1, with Cheri Gargalianos abstaining.

## **#210 Police Department**

Chief Rosa and Lt. Commander Opland presented the Police Department Budget, which totals 83 staff members. This total includes the Chief, Deputy Chief, eight Lieutenants, 10 Sergeants, and 48 Patrolmen. In addition, there is a Building Maintenance Craftsman, four Clerks, and ten Civilian Dispatchers. Two Patrolmen (School Resource Officers – one for Shawsheen Tech, one for Valley Collaborative) are funded by those entities, and One Dispatcher are grant-funded.

The Capital Outlay line item includes funding for four replacement police cruisers, with an estimated cost of \$176,000, with four Lifepack AEDs (defibrillators). The make/model for the new cruisers has not been decided yet. Ford has discontinued the police version of the Explorer SUV for 2020. The Chief is investigating whether other makes/models will be able to use existing equipment.

Chief Rosa explained that Overtime is up, primarily due to twice a year required firearms training for which he utilizes the Sheriff's tractor trailer which has scenario training, which is very beneficial. Overtime is also up because there are openings which cannot be filled because the Civil Service test is only given every other year. The next one is being given in March 2019, so there should be a new list in a few months. Towns like Reading and Burlington have gotten out of Civil Service and that has helped them.

Dispatchers are not Civil Service, but their turnover is high because their salaries are not competitive. There was discussion on reviewing this issue.

There is one employee out of work on 111f long-term – he may retire.

The current police contract, which expires June 30, 2019, was settled with 2/2/2 percent increases. Preliminary Negotiations have started on the next three year contract (from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022), according to FinCom liaison Moriconi.

Opioid overdoses are the same, but deaths are down. Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut, and Tewksbury have started a group drug counseling program, and Billerica has the use of a counselor once a week to help with mental health needs. There was a brief discussion regarding adding a social services staff member for the Town.

Doug Meagher moved to recommend the \$8,482,813 Budget, seconded by Mary McBride. The vote was unanimous, 11-0.

## **#231 Ambulance**

Chief Rosa and Lt. Commander Opland (Administrator of Ambulance) presented the Ambulance Budget. EMT/Supervisor Joe Devlin was on vacation, but had supplied information to the FinCom in advance. Some details are owed to us due to a glitch in the system but the Chief will get those to us asap.

There is full Advanced Life Support (Paramedic) service in Billerica, staffed by 16 Paramedics using two ambulances 24/7. Per diem paramedics can be called if there is insufficient coverage at any time.

One 30 plus year employee will be retiring in March 2019.

The Dodge ambulance is working out, and the new one approved by Town Meeting in the Fall is on order.

Doug Meagher moved to recommend the \$1,656,353 Budget, seconded by Donald Damon. The vote was unanimous, 11-0.

### **#291 Emergency Management**

Chief Rosa and Lt, Commander Opland presented the Emergency Management Budget.

There is a Shelter at the Marshall Middle School, in the event of a power outage or other disaster. There is also a Warming Center at The Council on Aging.

Chief Rosa will investigate to see if Shawsheen Tech has a shelter available in the event of a serious need. (Since this meeting, Bill Laurendeau told the Chief that he has been speaking with Wilmington and Tewksbury about using the Tech as a Regional Shelter in case of an emergency. The Tech has sufficient resources to function as a shelter but this is still in discussion).

Doug Meagher moved to recommend the \$25,981 Emergency Management Budget, seconded by Patrick Logue. The vote was unanimous, 11-0

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS LIAISON REPORTS:**

N/A

### **MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE:**

N/A

### **NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting to be held on March 12, 2019 at 7:00pm.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was moved by Meagher and seconded by Logue.

The vote was 11-0-0.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:20 pm.

**Respectfully submitted**  
**Mary K. McBride, Temporary Clerk**

