



Billerica Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Billerica Town Hall
Room 210
7:00 PM
April 11, 2019

Finance Committee Members:

David Gagliardi, Chair
Donald Damon
John Kleschinsky, 1st Associate
Scott Morris, 2nd Associate

Douglas Meagher, Vice Chair
Douglas Fogerty
Patrick Logue
John Mulloy

Mary K. McBride, Secretary
Cheri Gargalianos
Rino Moriconi
Philip Newfell

Anthony Ventresca

Town Accountant Paul Watson, Ex-Officio

Bee Magliozzi, Recording Clerk

ATTENDANCE:

12 Committee Members Present, 1 (Gargalianos) Absent. Clerk Bee Magliozzi was excused.

CALL TO ORDER:

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE:

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

PUBLIC HEARING:

Mary McBride moved, seconded by Doug Meagher, to open the Advertised Public Hearing at 7:04 PM. The vote to open the hearing was unanimous, 11-0.

RECREATION DEPT. BUDGET:

Recreation Director David Grubb and Town Manager John Curran presented the Recreation Budget. The Budget will increase by 3.8%, \$10,000 of which comes from personnel/ contractual obligations, and about \$10,000 for an increase in funding for Town-wide Family Events, and equipment rentals including port-a-potties. Every sports field in town will be supplied with port-a-potties.

The Recreation Department sponsored an Easter celebration at the Peggy Hannon Rizza complex that drew 1000 people, at no cost to participants. In the future Grubb plans to supplement the Budget with sponsorships by Billerica businesses and organizations instead of leaning on the Budget for this.

Grubb will permit all fields, including Vietnam Veterans Park, although VVP is under the actual control of the Board of Selectmen.

In summer Parks programs will be open from 9:00 – noon at the Ditson and Dutile Schools, and from 9:00 – 3:00 at the Hajjar School.

Disk Golf will probably be changed to nine holes from 18 to make it more family-friendly.

Meagher, seconded by Patrick Logue, moved to recommend the Recreation Budget in the amount of \$462,936. The vote was unanimous, 11-0.

WARRANT ARTICLES #44 and 45:

Substance Abuse Committee (BSAP) chair Dina Favreau and Town Manager Curran presented Articles 44 and 45, which were discussed together. As soon as Article 44 is finalized for the Final Warrant, Article 45 will be withdrawn.

Article 44 is a proposed resolution supporting the BSAP’s policy regarding reporting opioid-related substance use overdose statistics and issuing emergency public advisory warnings when there is a change in overdose circumstances or a related spike in Town to better serve the community. Alerts would be sent via social media, the Town website, newspapers, and a text system to known families with exposure to opioid use. Presently this information is centralized in the Police Department and goes to Deputy Chief Roy Frost. It includes consistent statistical information and a public warning.

After much discussion, Meagher, seconded by McBride, moved to support the Article 44 Resolution, which passed unanimously. He then moved to withdraw Article 45, which passed unanimously.

WARRANT ARTICLE #47:

Petitioner Ankit Patel presented Article 47 to the Finance Committee. He is the owner of Richdale (Nilkanth Store LLC) at 816 Boston Road in Pinehurst. This store has a Beer and Wine License, and would like to sell all Alcoholic Beverages. The petitioner made the case that the nearest location which sells all alcohol is in Burlington to the south and Town Plaza to the north. Billerica is allowed nine such All Alcohol retail store licenses and all have been issued.

The petitioner is trying to have the legislature grant an additional All Alcohol License and this warrant article is the first step. This process usually takes several months, and ultimately the Board of Selectmen has the final approval.

Chief Dan Rosa spoke in support of the article.

Meagher, seconded by Logue, moved the article. The vote was 9-2 to recommend Article 47 to Town Meeting.

WARRANT ARTICLE #46:

Petitioner Lisa O'Connor presented Article 46 to the Finance Committee. It seeks to amend Billerica's General By-Laws to prohibit the use of thin film plastic bags at any retail or grocery store in Town.

There were some changes recommended by the Rules Committee at their 4/10 (the night before the FinCom meeting) which the petitioner incorporated into the revised document which was distributed, and which she read to the committee. Member Logue moved, seconded by Damon, to continue this Article to a later meeting so that the committee would have time to study the changes. The vote was 4 in favor, 7 opposed and the motion to continue failed.

After much discussion, including the fact that 91/351 communities have passed a ban on thin film plastic bags, including most of the towns surrounding Billerica, Meagher, seconded by McBride, voted to recommend Article 46 to Town Meeting. The vote was 6-5 to recommend.

The Rules Committee voted 7-2 to recommend.

The Board of Health voted 3-2 to recommend.

Meagher, seconded by Logue, moved to recommend Article 46 to Town Meeting. The vote was 6-5 to recommend.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was an audience of two at the meeting, new Town Meeting members, who spoke in support of Article 46.

Meagher, seconded by McBride, moved to close the Public Hearing. The vote was unanimous, 11-0.

Ventresca, seconded by Logue, moved to adjourn. The vote was unanimous, 11-0.