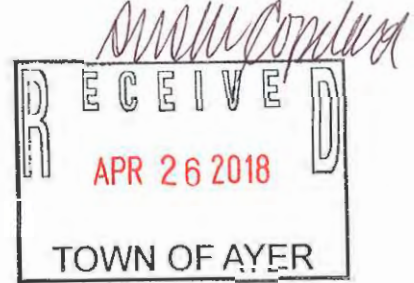


AYER FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

April 17, 2018 – 7:00 PM
Ayer Town Hall



Present: Scott Houde, Chairman; Patrick Diamond, Vice-Chairman; Gregory Ketcham, Clerk; Chris Prehl, member.

Called to Order: 7:04 PM

New Business:

Joint Sessions with Board of Selectmen

a. Budget discussion and review

- Introductory remarks from R Pontbriand
- Presentation of number summary from L Gabree
- General concerns from SH
 - Real increase is > 6% instead of the ~5% presented if we consider that our cost of insurance decreasing.
 - For such an increase, what are the taxpayers truly getting in return?
- Response from RP
 - Regionalization of dispatch with Shirley
 - Council on Aging costs for MART increase
 - Salaries increasing due to standard 2%,
 - Two reclassifications, one the assistant town manager position; town manager needs a qualified person in that position.
 - Fire chief salary increased 7%; necessary to have qualified candidate.
- Response from PD
 - Concern about when we hit maximum levy capacity
 - Interested in putting together committee to analyze plan for what to do when that happens
- Department 100
 - Town Council increased slightly, needed RFT in 2018 budget
- Department 300
 - SH asked about Tree Warden's history of spending entire budget
- Department 500
 - SH asked about Pop Warner and Little League
- BoS vote held to increase all salaries 2% for CoLA
 - Includes elected officials

b. Warrant review and vote recommendations

- Articles 3 and 4 contract funding are included in Omnibus Budget

- Article 20 wouldn't make sense to include in Omnibus Budget; funds can't be rolled over if not spent by the end of June. Also, would be bottom line budget and could be spent on other things if included in Omnibus Budget.
- Article 29, just an access easement to allow trucks to turn
- Articles 30 & 31, no financial impact, FinCom will not provide opinion on official warrant article
- Explanatory note for Article 32 will be updated before Town Meeting
- Article 33 is specifically for The Vineyard. BoS says that this will be final time for this particular warrant article.

c. Votes

- Motion to recommend the Special Town Meeting warrant article
 - Motion by PD, Second by CP
 - In favor – SH, PD, GK, CP
 - Vote passed
- Motion to recommend all Annual Town Meeting warrant articles with financial impact.
 - Motion by PD, Second by CP
 - GK expressed hesitation about voting to recommend the Omnibus Budget at this time
 - In favor – SH, PD, CP
 - Opposed – GK
 - Vote passed

Upcoming Schedule:

Next regularly scheduled Finance Committee meeting set for 04/25/2018.

Motion to Adjourn: 8:41 PM

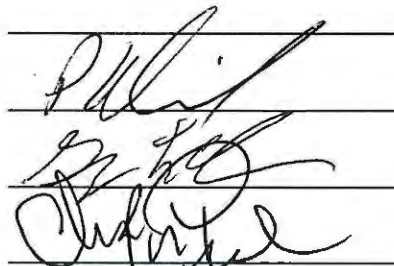
- Motion by CP, Second by PD
- In favor – SH, PD, GK, CP
- Vote passed

Scott Houde, Chairman

Patrick Diamond, Vice Chairman

Gregory Ketcham, Clerk

Chris Prehl, Member



Date: _____

Date: 4-25-18

Date: 4-25-18

Date: 4/25/18