



# Franklin

## MASSACHUSETTS

## Finance Committee

**Meeting Date:** April 5, 2017

**Present:** Dufour, Dowd, Conley, Fleming, Moses, Dewsnap, Huempfer, Smith

**Absent:** Wiech

**Call to order:** 7:00 PM

**Citizens Comments:** None, no citizens present

**Approval of minutes:** Minutes of April 3, 2017 were reviewed and approved. Vote 8-0,

**Items for Action:**

- Budget Departmental Reviews
  - **TRI COUNTY** – Budget up 5.6% representing required minimums. School has a filed notice of interest with SBAB to replace some aging infrastructure. Will be a future project.
  - **NORFOLK AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL** – Assessment based on number of students from Franklin which is estimated at 13-17.
  - **ASSESSORS** – Budget basically static, no staff increases. Next state required “audit” in FY2022.
  - **HEALTH** – Additional part time hours (16 hrs./week) to allow for more public access to office. Board members requested \$500/year stipend which was not recommended by TA. No other board in town gets or requests a stipend. Currently 108 food establishments in town resulting in 400+ inspections per year.
  - **PLANNING** – Basically a flat budget. Adjusted advertising budget. Planning provides support to many boards and committees. Many projects in process. Marketing the town is still a priority.
  - **COUNCIL ON AGING** – Fully fund wellness nurse. Currently serving 100-120 people per day of which 20% are from other towns. Impact of additional space not yet quantifiable due to short time period. Much of staff is funded through grant money that totals about \$50,000. One of only 4 or 5 senior centers to offer breakfast and lunch.

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- **LIBRARY** – Adding staff to fully utilize new facility. Currently underfunded based on state requirements and will require a waiver to maintain state funding. Current at 75% and this budget will bring to 85%. No credit given for capital support of facility. Our circulation numbers enhance our effort to get funding waiver. Many programs remained despite temporary location.
- **TOWN CLERK** – Basically level funded. Still require funds to maintain paper copies of certain documents. Next year will require funds to replacing aging voting equipment. Also looking to enhance the successful early voting operation of the last election.
- **ELECTIONS** – Only 1 election the year.
- **RECREATION** – Highly successful and expanding programs due to new facility on Beaver Street. Budget is completely funded through generated fees. Creative use of grant funding continues.
- **DEBT** – Up slightly pending final numbers on High School. Maintain constant debt of about 3.5% of budget allows for financing of library and other projects. Allows town to maintain high quality facilities within regular budget process.

**Actions Taken:**

- On a motion duly made and seconded the sum of \$9,899,231 was recommended to the Town Council for General Government Expenses – Passed 8-0.
- On a motion duly made and seconded the sum of \$11,201,434 was recommended to the Town Council for Public Safety Expenses – Passed 8-0.
- On a motion duly made and seconded the sum of \$62,586,202 was recommended to the Town Council for Education Expenses – Passed 8-0.
- On a motion duly made and seconded the sum of \$4,669,497 was recommended to the Town Council for DPW Highway Expenses – Passed 8-0.
- On a motion duly made and seconded the sum of \$691,948 was recommended to the Town Council for Human Services Expenses – Passed 8-0.
- On a motion duly made and seconded the sum of \$1,399,397 was recommended to the Town Council for Culture and Recreation Expenses – Passed 8-0.
- On a motion duly made and seconded the sum of \$6,609,708 was recommend to the Town Council for Debt Service Expenses – Passed 8-0.
- On a motion duly made and seconded the sum of \$10,956,398 was recommend to the Town Council for Benefits Expenses – Passed 8-0.
- On a motion duly made and seconded the sum of \$525,000 was recommended to the Town Council for Liability Insurance Expenses – Passed 8-0.
- On a motion duly made and seconded the sum of \$108,538,815 was recommend to the Town Council for Total All Budgets Expenses – Passed 8-0.
- On a motion duly made and seconded the sum of \$11,926,995 was recommend to the Town Council for Enterprise Fund Expenses – Passed 8-0.

- On a motion duly made and seconded the sum of \$120,465,810 was recommend to the Town Council for Total Operating Expenses – Passed 8-0.

**General Business:**

- The TA was questioned as to the status of member's terms. The TA indicated that a recent listing of terms was completed and that those members whose terms will be expiring will be contacted in early May to determine their willingness to accept re-appointment.
- The chairmen indicated that several members must update their ethics status. He will be contacting those members by e-mail this week.

**Meeting adjourned:** 8:30 PM

**Next meeting:** TBD