

Town of Williamsburg

Minutes of the Finance Committee Williamsburg Town Offices 30 March 2016

Members Present: Paul Wetzel, Eric Cerreta, Steven Romanowski, Chris Morris, Linda Rowley, Charles Dudek, Richard Kisloski, Charlie Heath

Members Absent: Jacqueline Dufresne

Charlene Nardi, Town Administrator was also present

The meeting was called to order by co-chair Paul Wetzel at 5:34 p.m.

The Finance Committee had budget discussions with the Williamsburg and Hampshire Regional school administrators, Police Department, and the Meekins library director and library board.

Williamsburg elementary school Principal Stacy Jenkins presented an increase of \$150,038 over last year's budget. Student enrollment is predicted to remain relatively steady (~5% decrease) at 165. Much of the requested budget increase (95%) is to support teacher contractual increases, a new teaching assistant, and special education needs and intervention, including the hiring of a behaviorist. Principal Jenkins reported a steep increase in the number of children that need behavioral intervention. The principal and the school committee want to hire appropriate staff instead of sending the children to other districts for outside help. Sending students outside of the district costs much more than hiring special education professionals. Using \$45,000 from anticipated school choice funds, the local school budget request from the Town was for \$104,302. This brings the requested FY 2017 total local school budget to \$2,245,280.

Hampshire Regional High School Principal Kristen Smiddy presented proposed budget with a Williamsburg Town assessment of \$1,347,573, an increase of \$131,539 (10.82%) over last year's budget. This increase was attributed to a 2% increase in the state's community wealth calculation (a factor that is used to calculate the Town's regional school assessment) and to an increase in 7 students attending the Regional High School next year.

Police Chief Denise Wickland presented a level funded budget to the Finance Committee, requesting \$222,805 for FY17 departmental operations. She told the Committee that she is not able to update equipment with the proposed budget. She also said that in the future she expects expenses for training (labor) to increase as state requirement certifications increase.

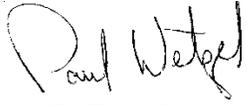
Katie Krohl, Director of Meekins Library presented a budget requesting \$136,200 for FY17 library operations, a \$5,133 increase over last year. The amount of \$3,133 is for labor that was previously paid for through donations and these labor costs are the last ones to be covered by Town appropriations. Two thousand dollars is being requested to help fund the state mandated materials budget (19.5% of the Town appropriation), with the remaining amount of the mandate funded with donations.

The Conservation Commission requested a reserve fund transfer of \$158.93 to pay for additional secretarial services until the end of the fiscal year. Eric Cerreta moved to approve the transfer; Charlie Heath seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes from the meeting held 16 March 2016 were reviewed. Linda Rowley moved to approve the minutes; Eric Cerreta seconded the motion. Charlie Heath and Eric Cerreta abstained; all other members voted to pass the motion.

There being no further business before the Committee, Chris Morris moved to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Eric Cerreta. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Wetzel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "P".

Paul R. Wetzel