

JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE AND SELECTMEN MEETING  
July 13, 2016

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**Meeting Date:** July 13, 2016      **Called to Order:** 6:02 PM  
**Location:** 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls MA

**Finance Committee Members Present:** John Hanold, Greg Garrison, Patricia Pruitt, and Michael Naughton. Fred Bowman and Chris Menegoni were absent.

**Selectmen Present:** Chris Boutwell. Michael Nelson and Richard Kuklewicz were absent.

**Others Present:** Town Accountant Carolyn Olsen and Information Technology Administrator Laura Arruda

**Minutes**

Finance Committee Moved:

To approve the minutes of June 22, 2016.

Vote: 4 In Favor   0 Opposed   0 Abstained

**Reserve Fund Transfer – FY2017 IT Budget**

The IT Administrator is requesting an additional \$480, which will pay to upgrade the DSL line speed to 50/15. Currently this line speed is at the same basic speed it was set up for over ten years ago. The Town Hall employees have been complaining about the slowness of downloading and/or uploading large documents which include building sketches from contractors, documents the Town Planner needs, photos for the Board of Health and other departments that have noticed the lack of speed. In the recent research for a new phone system, we were told that we were at the basic rate of 3 instead of 15. The cost to increase the basic line is an additional \$40 per month.

Finance Committee Moved:

To transfer \$480 from the Reserve Fund to the FY2017 IT Budget.

Vote: 4 In Favor   0 Opposed   0 Abstained

Mr. Naughton would like someone in a management position to come up with a better way to manage IT.

After October 31<sup>st</sup>, Ms. Arruda will no longer be the IT Administrator.

**Reorganization**

The committee briefly discussed the need to recruit a new member for the existing vacancy and possible future vacancies.

Finance Committee Moved:

To retain John Hanold as Chair, Michael Naughton as Vice-Chair and Chris Menegoni as Clerk.

Vote: 4 In Favor   0 Opposed   0 Abstained

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**Topics not anticipated within in the 48 hour posting requirements**

- FY17 Budget: Mr. Hanold noted that ATM voted \$50k for GMRSD above the recommended amount which must be funded. New growth has just been determined to be about \$130,000 higher than anticipated.
- The town has historically used \$250,000 of Free Cash to balance the budget, and there has been interest in eliminating the use of Free Cash to support the operating budget. This is something to consider as we go into the Fiscal Year 2018 budget process.
- WPCF Accounts - Interim WPCF Superintendent Grant Weaver is planning to significantly reduce the number of line items in the WPCF budget. A list of the proposed changes was distributed via e-mail earlier.
  - Pros and cons of fewer line items were discussed. Mr. Naughton is concerned that we'd be losing the ability to quickly notice when one insurance bill is rising faster than the others, or one piece of equipment is suddenly costing more to maintain.
  - Ms. Olsen tried to explain Mr. Weaver's purpose in the consolidation, which is essentially to remove the extra detail that he feels is not necessary.

**Next Meeting Date:** August 24, 2016.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM**

**List of Documents and Exhibits:**

- Minutes of June 22, 2016
- Reserve Fund Transfer request