

MILFORD FINANCE COMMITTEE

DECEMBER 9, 2015

PRESENT: Marc Schaen (Chair), Aldo Cecchi, Phil Ciaramicoli, Al Correia, Bob DeVita, Jerry Hiatt, Joyce Lavigne, Chuck Miklosovich, Chris Morin, Mike Nicholson, Jeff Niro, Michael Soares, John Tennaro and Vincenzo Valastro.

Member not present: Michael Schiavi

Also present: Zachary Taylor, Town Accountant/Finance Director; Rick Villani, Town Administrator; Kelly Capece, Health Insurance Analyst; Chris Pilla, Town Treasurer; and Paul Abbondanza, Financial Analyst

Media: Bill Shaner, Milford Daily News

Meeting called to order at 7:00 P.M.

John Tennaro moved to approve the September 30, 2015 Minutes, seconded by Aldo Cecchi, all in favor.

Michael Nicholson moved to approve the October 1, 2015 Minutes, seconded by Bob DeVita, all in favor.

Aldo Cecchi moved to approve the October 14, 2015 Minutes. Michael Soares reported that his name was omitted from the members present list at the October 14, 2015 meeting. Bob DeVita reported that at the October 14th meeting he asked that Paul Abbondanza prepare a position paper to note all of the expenses anticipated versus selling the Purchase Street School property and receiving \$8000 per year in taxes with no expenses and would like this to be followed through by putting it on the January agenda. The motion to accept was seconded by John Tennaro, all in favor.

Highway Surveyor/Town Engineer – Long Range Capital Plan: Town Engineer, Vonnie Reis, reported on the Long Range Capital Plan:

Grant Writing & Consulting: She does not have an annual budget to include Grant writing and would like to be able to put this on as an Article for Town Meeting.

GIS System: Planning Level Estimate is \$150,000-\$200,000 per year for 5 years which includes staffing. She is to meet with the Selectmen to discuss this matter. Marc Schaen advised that this should be discussed after she meets with the Selectmen next week and will schedule this for the January meeting. The Committee agreed that they need more discussion regarding capital.

Milford Pond Maintenance: Agreement with Army Corp requires the Town to treat for weeds annually and monitor for invasive species. The Milford Water Company has pledged \$5000 a year and the Town should also provide \$5000 a year to protect the investment in the pond.

Improvements to Town Facilities: Remove UST and repave Town Hall parking lots - \$250,000. Louisa Lake parking lot expansion is scheduled to 2018-19 at a cost of \$200,000.

FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan: Planning Level Estimate - \$56,000 and is still waiting to hear if the Town will get a 75% grant from FEMA to defray the costs.

Dam Safety: Louisa Lake – Planning level estimate is \$280,000 over 5 years; Milford Pond will need minor repairs now and the State inspection is June, 2016; Fish Pond – State inspection is July, 2019.

Godfrey Brook: \$75,000 for the design and \$650,000 for construction and will be deferred to 2019-2020 pending eligibility of FEMA grants.

Stormwater MS4 Permit Compliance: \$600,000 for year 1; Total planning level estimate for permit compliance is \$1.5 million.

Other Stormwater Projects: Wetland Treatment Areas are Dilla and Sumner Streets. A 319 Grant was received for \$214,290 to design and construct; the Town's match is \$143,196 to be appropriated at the 2016 Annual Town Meeting.

Scott Crisafulli, Highway Surveyor, reported the total cost for the bridge repair on Fiske Mill Road is \$1 million plus engineering cost. Half would come from the Highway Department and half from Engineering. The maintenance for the bridge on Dilla Street is minor work and he does not have any amount as yet.

Financial Director Zachary Taylor reported that the School and Retirement departments are the highest budgets. Pension is a \$4 million budget and the School is a \$4.5 million budget. The total employment for full time employees is 800 with health insurance. This information will be incorporated into the budget beginning January 2016.

IT Director Andy DiOrio reported that any equipment purchased can be loaned out with the approval of the IT Director. Marc Schaen reported that the committee wants to have Tablets during the meetings and not to be taken home or out of the building. Prices for the Tablets were discussed and further information will be provided to the committee.

School Superintendent Bob Trembley reported that Corey Masterson will give a presentation on School Choice. She reported that the numbers for School Choice leaving Milford are high (total for 2015-16 is 192). She reported that after communicating with parents as to why their children were leaving the MPS she reported that some of the reasons were: a lack of enrichment programs, changing demographics of Milford and preferred a less diverse community, bullying, perceived prevalence of drugs within the community, lack of follow through/accountability/communication from principals, negative learning environment/lack of respect for students, MCAS scores are not as high in Milford, academic standards are too low, need for more highly qualified staff. The Finance Committee noted that in 2015 the School district spent \$1,039,597 in tuition on students in other districts and only received \$438,321, a \$600,000 deficit during the past five years. The Finance Committee would like to have the School Sub-committee meet in January to discuss why the children are leaving MPS.

Aldo Cecchi moved to adjourn, seconded by John Tennaro, all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Diana Hearn

Documents reviewed:

1. Presentation to the Finance Committee by Engineering Department
2. Health Insurance Analysis per Department
3. IT Equipment Loaner and Tablet Plan by Andrew Diorio
4. Milford Public Schools presentation on School Choice Report