

MILFORD FINANCE COMMITTEE

MARCH 9, 2016

PRESENT: Marc Schaen (Chair), Aldo Cecchi, Al Correia, Joyce Lavigne, Charles Miklosovich, Chris Morin, Michael Nicholson, Jeff Niro, Michael Soares, and John Tennaro.

Members not present: Phil Ciaramicoli, Robert DeVita, Jerry Hiatt, Michael Schiavi, Vincenzo Valastro.

Also present: Richard Villani, Town Administrator; Zachary Taylor, Town Accountant/Financial Director; Brian Murray, Selectman; Bill Buckley, Selectman, Will Kingade, Selectman, Chris Pilla, Town Treasurer; Harold Rhodes, Chairman of Commission on Disability, and Paul Abbondanza, Financial Analyst.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Chuck Miklosovich moved to approve the 2-10-16 Minutes, seconded by Aldo Cecchi, all in favor.

MWRTA Discussion: Carl Damigella, Director of Communications Relations for MWRTA, was introduced and answered questions from the Committee. Brian Murray reported that Milford has agreed to join MWRTA and he attends meetings in Framingham and they have talked about a sixteen seat bus going through Milford for a cost of \$250,000. A route will be proposed for people to look at. Representative John Fernandes is working to get legislation passed that would include Milford receiving a substantial portion of the cost.

Contract Discussions: There would be an annual contract.

Budget Discussions: The Town's assessment would be \$250,000. The Senior Center would have another van with no charge except for the driver's salary.

Loop Travel Time: This would be one hour and Milford could change the schedule stops at any time.

Al Correia asked what the benefit of joining MWRTA was as opposed to having Lenny Morcone run another bus and Harold Rhodes reported that if MWRTA's bus breaks down, they have other buses to use and Milford would not.

Mike Soares asked if the buses run empty would the cost still be the same and Harold Rhodes reported yes and reported that if there is an increase in fuel prices then the Town is responsible to pay the extra money. The fare for the van is set at \$1.50 for persons under 65 without disabilities; \$.75 for seniors with a Charlie Card.

Chris Morin asked who receives the fares and Mr. Damigella responded that the MWRTA gets the money. Chris Morin asked if the Town should have two buses as opposed to one from the beginning due to the one hour time line and Mr. Damigella responded that Framingham has only two buses with an hour and ten minute time line. Chris Morin asked if the Town will need shelters for the bus stops and Mr. Damigella responded that yes shelters would be needed.

Aldo Cecchi asked if Milford would be assessed by the MBTA and Brian Murray reported that only towns that are served by the MBTA are assessed. Aldo Cecchi asked if this will work because once in it the Town cannot get out of it. Bill Buckley responded that the first year contract will be the test. Aldo Cecchi asked how a handicapped person will get to the bus stop and Harold Rhodes responded that the first year will also show if this will work out.

Chuck Miklosovich asked what will be the size of the bus. It will be 25 feet long.

Joyce Lavigne asked if there will be a designated parking area for the bus stop and Mr. Rhodes responded yes.

Marc Schaen asked that if this will be a 13 trips per day, 5 days a week schedule, can or will this change and Mr. Rhodes responded yes. Marc Schaen asked if it would be possible could the Finance Committee see a report of costs during the year and Mr. Rhodes responded yes. Marc Schaen reported that if the town is paying \$250,000 and this should be offset by the riders' fee then there is no benefit. Mr. Buckley responded that there is a citizens' benefit.

Discussion on presentation of minority report at Town Meeting: Marc Schaen reported that he believes as credibility and representative of FinCom, a member should not go against FinCom's vote. Al Correia reported that he feels the person should be able to speak his own opinion at Town Meeting. Aldo Cecchi said he feels an individual should be able to get up and say what he feels.

Subcommittee Reports:

Aldo Cecchi – Woodland School: Aldo Cecchi reported that the Woodland School windows are in; the ceiling grids are going in now in the B wing; the sheet rock is being done in the cafeteria; the kitchen vents are in; the bathrooms are tiled; the sports equipment is due to arrive. They are four days ahead of schedule. The finish date is 7-26-16 and the opening date is in September.

BVT Budget: Chris Morin reported that \$1.6 million is the total budget and there are 23 extra students from Milford. There is a fifteen percent increase in enrollment and a reduced cost of \$228 per student. The School got a \$407,000 grant from the State for equipment.

District Budget: There are still discussions ongoing with the district, initial budget calls for 4.1% increase.

IT update: Seventeen Tablets are in and will be set up with accountant structure. There will be a training session schedule for the Finance Committee.

Open Town Meeting Articles: There is a need to talk to department heads to close old money articles that are still open.

John Tennaro moved for a favorable recommendation on the Deficit Spending of Snow & Ice, seconded by Aldo Cecchi, all in favor.

Marc Schaen reported that he would schedule a Budget Review and Funding meeting by the end of this month and then meet on 3-23-26 to begin going over Articles.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Diana Hearn

Memo from Zachary Taylor, Town Accountant/Financial Director