

## **MILFORD FINANCE COMMITTEE**

### **BY TELECONFERENCE**

**MARCH 10, 2021**

PRESENT: Chris Morin (Chair), Al Correia, Bob DeVita, Jerry Hiatt, Brant Hornberger, Andy Lizotte, Joyce Lavigne, David Levine, Mike Nicholson and Carly Kearnan.

Members not present by remote: Aldo Cecchi, Phil Ciaramicoli, Chuck Miklosovich, John Tennaro and Vincenzo Valastro.

Also present by remote: Richard Villani, Town Administrator, Paul Abbondanza, Financial Analyst; Scott Crisafulli, Highway Surveyor.

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

**Highway Surveyor:** Scott Crisafulli reported on the Route 16 project – drains and sidewalk work are done; Route 140 and Route 16 projects are not fully completed and work will restart on March 28 with the intersection, lights and sidewalks. The plan is to finish in September with the road being the last thing to be done. He reported that things are going good at the department. They have some money left in the budget. He is trying for a third grant for the Godfrey Brook project but the brook itself needs work. The Grant is for \$400,000. He is also trying for a Grant for Route 109 to Holliston work. The cost is about \$700,000. He is working to do work for sidewalks on Cedar Street and Walden Woods and rebuild Dilla Street, Cedar Street to Main Street. The Snow/Ice Budget is \$208,000 over. He does not think he will be asking for more money this year. Regarding the bridge at Rte. 109 and Bear Hill, Scott reported that traffic will be directed and he's looking at different scenarios and hope the time will be short to do the work.

**Finance Report:** There is no report as Finance Director, Zachary Taylor, is out sick.

**Water Company Update:** Town Administrator, Richard Villani, reported that decisions on 2-26-21 reported that the amount of compensation is \$66,395,908 not including other capital projects started. That number is not exact. The time line for appeals will be determined by the Supreme Judicial Court. He will have to go to Town Meeting after getting the exact number. Our lawyers have not gone through the complete decision yet.

**Subcommittee Reports:** Cultural Subcommittee: Mike Nicholson reported that the Library has a 0.4 percent increase in its proposed FY22 budget and that the subcommittee voted in favor of supporting this increase. The School subcommittee reported a 4.2% increase in the 'level service' portion of the proposed FY22 budget plus a 3.9% increase in the 'new initiatives' portion of the proposed budget and they are meeting with the School to resolve the Subcommittee's concerns. These increases do not include health care.

Paul Abbondanza, Financial Analyst, reported that department budgets are not targeted yet. The personnel budget could be 5 or 6%, pension could be 5-7%, and health insurance higher. Revenues and Expense Sheets are not absorbed in the budget figures. They are still budgeting for capital expenses. Discussion: indirect expenses per pupil, health care and pensions; level services.

Sewer Department: Paul reported that the rate structure will be determined.

School Department: There is an increase in the Blackstone Valley Regional School enrollment. There is a \$31,000 increase in their budget, adding two new students.

Al Correia reported that the Parks Department met with the subcommittee and will bring forward an increase which will be determined at the May Town Meeting. Chris Morin said that they need to look at capital inter-structure improvement and have it done on a regular basis and save the town some money.

Jerry Hiatt reported on the Police Department: Vehicles \$50,000 - \$100,000 increase for new police vehicles. He thinks their budget is in good condition.

Bob DeVita moved to adjourn, seconded by Carly Kearnan, all in favor. (10-0) Roll Call.

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Minutes recorded by remote by Diana Hearn

Documents reviewed by remote: None