**MILFORD FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**JANUARY 11, 2023**

PRESENT: Al Correia (Chair), Brant Hornberger, Andy Lizotte, Joyce Lavigne, David Levine, Chris Morin, Mike Nicholson, Mitchell Ruscitti, and Vinny Valastro.

Present by Zoom: Bob DeVita, Jerry Hiatt and Chuck Miklosovich

Members not present: Carly Kearnan, Jack Tennaro and Peter Wish

Also present: Tom Brown, Town Accountant; Chris Pilla, Town Treasurer; Zachary Taylor, Finance Director; Paul Abbondanza, Financial Analyst.

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

Chris Morin moved to approve the 11-09-2022 Minutes, seconded by Brant Hornberger. Roll Call. All in favor.

Parks Department: Jimmy Asam reported on the damage to the walking trail in the Hopkinton section. Trees are down on the trail, some happened during the night and others fell during the day time. They have closed off that section of the trail. They do not have the equipment to clear the tree debris and it is a safety concern. The cost to clear it is $18,000. Jerry Hiatt moved to approve the $18,000 to clear the walking trail, seconded by Vinny Valastro. Roll Call, all in favor.

Countryside Sources and Payments: Brant Hornberger reported that the patient demand has returned, the issue now is an industry wide staffing shortfall. Dave Levine wants the Geriatric to explain to the Finance Committee what the money is for. They are losing a quarter of a million dollars a month. It was agreed that this needs to be discussed on a regular basis and a decision should be made by the May Town Meeting.

School Department: Mike Nicholson reported the Level Service Budget is tentatively projected to increase from $61.7 million to $66.7 million, an increase of $5 million. Discussion followed.

Dave Levine reported that there is an increase in the Youth Center budget of $10,000.

Bob DeVita reported that in November he did not have the proper time to look at the Town Audit and believes that the Finance Committee should look at whether or not we should continue with the same firm or look for a new one. The Town has had the same firm for twenty years. We are under contract with them for one more year and he believes this should be discussed at a later date. Al Correia asked for an update for the next months Finance Committee meeting. Zach Taylor reported that he will meet with the auditor next week.

Zachary Taylor gave an update on the financial facts and updates of the town. Certified Cash at $7,103,715; Stabilization Balance: $33,966,655; Cherry Sheet Final: $44,915,667; General Fund and School Articles: $13,714,668.

Chris Pilla reported an increase in Stabilization Fund; Tom Brown reported that all budgets will be discussed with the Select Board and sent to department heads for review until March. In April all budgets will be reviewed.

Andy Lizotte moved to adjourn, seconded by Vinny Valastro, all in favor. Roll Call

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 P.M.

Minutes recorded by Diana Hearns

Documents reviewed: Financial Facts & Updates FY23 and Town Support of Countryside Sources & Payments as of 1/11/23