**MILFORD FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**FEBRUARY 9, 2022**

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

Members not present: Bob DeVita, Jerry Hiatt, Chuck Miklosovich, John Tennaro, Vinny Valastro and Peter Wish.

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

Meeting called to order at 7:08 p.m.

Mike Nicholson moved to approve the October 13, 2021 Minutes, seconded by Andy Lizotte, all in favor.

Brant Hornberger moved to approve the December 8, 2021 Minutes, seconded by Mike Nicholson, all in favor.

Zachary Taylor reported on the FY23 Budgets, Estimated Revenues and Projected Expenditures for FY23. Total estimated revenue is $144,798,727. The Cherry Sheet is not an exact figure, it is only 90% with an amount of $43,904,037; the Levy figure is $81,972,342. Paul Abbondanza reported on the departmental expenses for the School Department which are up 9.10% with the BVT expenses up 5.5%. Zach also reported that the Water Company is now included in the figures. Stabilization is at $1,360,000 and the total operating budget is $132,211,233. The Levy adjustment is the same as last year. The town has approximately $2 million available for other uses and expenses.

The Milford School has 50% of their students on free lunch. Milford may be able to get $7 million in State Aid or more. Employee Benefits is at $23,028,435; the Personnal Board has a study going on now and their information will be in Article 2 of Town Meeting. Article 5 will supplement Article 4 which we did in October at Town Meeting. Real Estate taxes will be going up but not because of the Water Company purchase. The Senior Center’s operating budget is $148,000. The Treasurer’s budget is up 5% from the last three years.

School Department: Brant Hornberger reported that at the School Subcommittee meeting with the School Board it was shown that the operating budget request for the School is $61,442.569. There is an increase in their Budget of 5% from the last three years. Kevin McIntyre reported that there is an increase in the school population of students. The budget request for 2022-2023 is $61,442.569. The Level Services Budget for FY22 is $55,975,378. There are 400 students, five school buildings that are repaired or redone every ten years.

Sub-committee Reports: Education Subcommittee

Mike Nicholson reported that the latest meeting between the Education Subcommittee, the School Committee and the School Administration was via Zoom on January 31st. At that time, the currently proposed FY23 school budget included a 5.43% increases in the Level Service budget from approximately $56 million to approximately $59 million, plus new initiatives of approximately $2.2 million, or a 3.83% increase over the FY22 level service budget. Adding in approximately $288k in some last-minute changes resulted in the FY23 school budget totaling approximately $61.4 million, an increase of 9.77% over the FY22 budget. The Fincom Education Subcommittee voted on January 31st to support the proposed budget. Al Correia stated that the FinCom as a whole would delay voting on the proposed school budget until after Chapter 70 numbers are firmed up.

Cultural Subcommittee: Mike Nicholson reported that bidding for the Town Library fence replacement (STM Art.29 $40,000) was completed and a contract was awarded within the STM Article parameters. The Town Library lighting conversion to an LED System (STM Art.39 $80,000) is nearly completed.

Health Services Subcommittee: Finance Director Zach Taylor reported to the FinCom that the Senior Center operating budget will be broken out separately, starting with the FY23 budget cycle.

David Levine reported on the Youth Center: They are hiring new personnel at a higher rate of pay.

Chris Morin moved to adjourn, seconded by Andy Lizotte, all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.

Minutes recorded by Diana Hearns

Documents reviewed: Estimated Revenues and Projected Expenditures for FY23 and FY23 Milford Public Schools Budget Worksheet