

MILFORD FINANCE COMMITTEE

BY TELECONFERENCE

MAY 20, 2020

PRESENT BY REMOTE: Chris Morin (Chair), Aldo Cecchi, Phil Ciaramicoli, Al Correia, Bob DeVita, Jerry Hiatt, Brant Hornberger, Carlie Kearnan, Andy Lizotte, Joyce Lavigne, Charles Miklosovich, Mike Nicholson, and Jeff Niro.

Members not present by remote: John Tennaro and Vincenzo Valastro

Also present by remote: Zackary Taylor, Finance Director and Paul Abbondanza, Financial Analyst

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Aldo Cecchi moved to approve the 4-8-20 Minutes. seconded by Jerry Hiatt. all in favor.

Finance Director: Zachary Taylor reported that the state figures have not come in and that he is not counting on the Governor's budget of \$1,000,000 or less. He is going with an estimated figure of \$3,000,000 off the Governor's budget. He reported that we will be off \$4 million in three months and that we have to do some serious budget adjustments. All figures are at preliminary levels. All Capital Articles have been removed from the Town Meeting Warrant.

Zachary Taylor reported that the operational budget is at \$1 million; potential revenue is at \$120 million including sewer, federal aid and new growth. He believes we are close to balancing but not totally. The Budget Subcommittee is 4 percent over last year - \$11,700,000. He thinks we can do better but we won't know until we get the state figures. Chris Morin complimented Zach and his department on their work. Chris Morin feels we have a good handle on internal and local receipts. Brant Hornberger asked Zach how confident is he on the \$1 million figure and Zach responded that \$500,000 is a high level with additional room in case we're wrong. Benefits Department has some room; School, Police and Fire Departments have some money but they must trim their budgets. Al Correia feels that the School Department must cut back on their budget. Chris Morin feels next year is going to be worse and the Finance Committee will make sure that all departments will be made whole when funds are available.

Zachary Taylor reported that the \$2.5 million from the Federal Government comes with strings attached – it can only be used for Covid-19 expenses. He said that what we need for cash flow is not eligible for cash reimbursement and believes we will incur more expenses. He has set up a special emergency fund of \$450,000.

Subcommittee Reports: Jeff Niro reported that the Youth Center has water damage and they want to hire an architect and then sue the contractor. He reported that the School committee submitted a \$53,452,000 budget in February and in May submitted a \$53,550,000 budget, \$98,000 higher. Some items were grants from family resource centers including two new positions, purchase of 4 new vans and adding 4 new drivers; an 8.23% salary increased. A

90.1% increase in step positions with Cola. He expects to see credits because of early school closings. Al Correia asked why they haven't come before the Capital Committee before purchasing and hiring. Jeff Niro said they have 17 new positions. Brant Hornberger asked how did they get to the \$53,452,000 figure and Zachary Taylor answered that they knew there was going to be a mega increase in the budget and they had to submit a figure. Jeff Niro reported that the school got a grant from the state and he believes that a lot of things need to be taken off their budget.

Chris Morin stated that he would like to have weekly meetings and will let us know if he gets any information from the state. Paul Abbondanza reported that the town is in good shape and that local aid is only one part of the budget and that there are other types of funding. Local aid is only $\frac{1}{4}$ part of the budget.

Aldo Cecchi moved to adjourn, seconded by Joyce Lavigne, all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Diana Hearn

Documents reviewed: None