

TOWN OF WEBSTER
FINANCE COMMITTEE

Michael Finamo Chairman
Sarah Sansom, Vice Chairman

Town Hall, 350 Main Street, Webster, Massachusetts 01570

MINUTES
December 3, 2015

Present: Jim Bazinet, Joe Beresik, Mike Finamore, Earl Gabor and Sarah Sansom

Absent: Julie Dell'Anna, Carol Marchand and Stanley Lenky

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM on Thursday, December 3, 2015 by Chairman Finamore in the Selectmen's meeting room in the Town Hall. Chairman Finamore asked for a moment of silence for the tragedy in Colorado where 14 were killed and 17 injured..

Minutes

Motion was made by Earl Gabor and seconded to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2015 meeting. Vote was unanimous; motion carried.

Correspondence - None

Transfers - None

Budget

Copies of the November 2015 budget were distributed. Ms. Sansom and Mr. Gabor have been meeting with Ms. Leduc, Interim T/A and Town Accountant on Wednesday prior to the Finance Committee meetings, bringing questions from the committee to her, and coming back to the next meeting with responses. There were several questions on various line items but because Ms. Leduc was not present, again would have to be relayed back to her. Question was raised as to why Ms. Leduc had not attended the past four (4) meetings, Chairman Finamore was told "Ms. Leduc stated that one or more members of the Finance Committee make her sick" and the Board of Selectmen said she does not have to attend the meetings. One member of the Finance Committee indicated he sent a letter to Ms. Leduc on September 29 expressing his concern that discussions were not taking place as in the past with the T/A and Town Accountant present so questions could be answered and concerns addressed. He has not had a response. Chairman Finamore noted that in the past, the Town Administrator would have the budget prepared for review with the Finance Committee at their February meeting. The School Committee would have their budget ready to be presented and discussed at the Finance Committee's March meeting with both the T/A and the Town Accountant in attendance.

All members expressed concern regarding some of the actions taken by Ms. Leduc in her role as Interim T/A, and do not feel the reason given for her not attending the Finance Committee meetings, even if she has met with two representatives, is acceptable. Chairman Finamore does intend to speak to Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Mr. Bourque regarding this and what the next steps are with regard to forming a new Search Committee for the T/A position. The Interim T/A should also have the capital budget prepared in January for review at the Finance Committee's February meeting.

Some of the items questioned were 810 Federal Assessments & Charges with the entire YTD amount of \$334,952.00 expended; 914 Health Insurance with \$1,289,759.60 YTD expended, approximately 41.7% used of the \$3,095,423.00 budgeted amount; 913 Unemployment Compensation with the entire YTD amount of \$79,408.00 expended and 945 Liability Insurance showing YTD amount expended \$453,673.00 which is 98.3% of the budget. Chairman Finamore stated he will ask the Town Engineer to explain the proposed water/sewer rate, when it will take effect and the impact it will have on the taxpayers. One of the members mentioned he read an article stating the fees would be kept reasonable.

New Business

With regard to the Dispatch Center, originally set up under former T/A McAuliffe, it was the hope a third town would join Webster and Dudley, but to date, there are still only two. One member stated that the delinquent properties will be going out for bid in the near future and the monies received will go to the landfund.

It was mentioned that when at a Town meeting, where all members of the Finance Committee are seated together at a designated table as a body, if any member has a personal opinion from that of the committee, they should remove themselves from the Finance Committee table during discussion and/or vote. As demonstrated by the Town Moderator at a previous meeting, it is hopeful that in the near future, voting at the town meetings will be done electronically.

Old Business - None

Items Unknown at Time of Posting -

None Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Finance Committee will be held on Thursday, January 14, 2016 in the Selectmen's Office in the Town Hall. There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.


Christine Jackel, Secretary


Michael Finamore, Chairman - Accepted