



## Town of Medway

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

155 Village Street  
Medway MA 02053

**Tel: (508) 533-3200**

**Fax: (508) 533-3201**

Wednesday, January 8, 2020 – 7:00 PM  
Sanford Hall, Town Hall

Present: Frank Rossi, Chair; Todd Alessandri, Vice Chair; Ellen Hillery, Clerk; Kevin Dickie, Will Lane, Jeff O'Neill, Sue Segarra, and Jim Sullivan (remote participation).

Absent: Michael Schrader.

Staff Present: Michael Boynton, Town Administrator; Carol Pratt, Finance Director.

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At 7:00 PM Chairman Rossi called the meeting to order, noting that budget season is approaching. He announced that Mr. Sullivan would be participating remotely. This necessitates that all votes be by roll call vote.

#### Discussion- FY20 Budget

Present: Michael Boynton, Town Administrator.

Mr. Boynton noted that the municipal government has successfully met some goals for the Town in the past few years and will continue to move forward on goals such as OPEB contributions as well as other initiatives. Department heads work hard to manage their budgets to minimize costs; they take their jobs seriously. What helps is that we have a top notch Finance Department. There are naturally some challenges that will continue to be high on the "need" list, such as increase in health insurance costs. Brief discussion followed on how the insurance rates are calculated, i.e., based on costs for drugs and insurance coverage vs. how many claims on insurance are paid, the trend for high cost claims, and utilizing a thoughtful approach to evaluating the Town's experience. It was noted that there are some potential equipment purchases, but there are not the financial resources to support a robust capital plan.

It was noted that Medway student enrollment at Tri-County Regional Vocational High School continues to drop, involving a calculation that may or may not be a decrease in costs to the Town.

Brief discussion followed on pension liability and OPEB contributions. Mr. Boynton theorized that by the year 2029 the pension liability should be satisfied and excess monies could be reallocated.

Regarding the DPS Facilities Study, it will take about six months before we get the consultant report. We will review the recommendations in late summer or early fall; the earliest the Town will act on it will be in about a year.

Mr. Sullivan asked about recreational marijuana, specifically, if the Town is trying to grow its commercial base, wouldn't it make sense to consider a recreational marijuana retail outlet. The one in Bellingham was crazy busy during the holiday season. Discussion followed during which noise and odor were a big factor at the cultivation facility, issues that have been partially resolved. Other entities interested in Medway are learning from the ones that came first. Mr. Boynton recalled that years ago residents were having the same concerns about liquor stores and the impact on the community.

#### Chairman's Report

Chairman Rossi reported that some committee members attended the Tri-Board meeting with the School Department adding that the charter school issue did not come up. Brief discussion followed. He noted that the Schools will be coming to the Finance Committee's March 11 meeting.

#### Clerk's Report

Ms. Hillery, Clerk, reported that there was an invoice in the amount \$88.56 for publication of the public hearing notice, adding that there is currently \$1,490 remaining in the Finance Committee budget.

**Ms. Hillery made a motion to approve the invoice from GateHouse Media in the amount of \$88.56; Mr. Alessandri seconded. No discussion. Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Alessandri, aye; Dickie, aye; Hillery, aye; Lane, aye; O'Neill, aye; Rossi, aye; Segarra, aye; Sullivan, aye).**

Ms. Hillery reported that the Finance Committee Reserve Fund has its original appropriation of \$100,000 and has had no debits against it.

#### Liaison Reports

Reports were shared as follows:

- Board of Selectmen: Chairman Rossi and Mr. Alessandri attend as often as they can, and sometimes watch the videos instead.
- Public Safety: Ms. Segarra stated they might be coming to Finance Committee in April.
- Schools: Mr. Alessandri reported that while FY2021 is a challenge, FY2022 is a concern because every collective bargaining agreement will be up for negotiation. Mr. Aicardi is also working hard to get a handle on transportation costs.
- Health and Human Services: Ms. Hillery will meet with these groups.
- Parks and Library: Mr. Dickie has not met with them yet.
- Department of Public Works: Ms. Segarra has been attending meetings, noting recent matters include a revision of sewer rates and the possibility there was an overcharge on sewer fees. If so, refunds will be attributed to the affected accounts. She reported on a new program where residents can access software that records their water usage. Regarding Inflow and Infiltration, flow meters have been installed to help track leaks. Brief discussion followed.
- Planning: Mr. Sullivan plans to meet with the Planning Board sometime before the end of January.

- Community Preservation Committee: Ms. Hillery reported there is still \$1.3 million in retained earnings. Some money was used to purchase a property. Otherwise, there was no new business, and no new projects coming forward.
- Capital Planning Improvement Committee: Ms. Segarra stated this group should be going into its final rankings of potential projects, noting that they had been meeting with department heads. They are now in the planning process. She will find out when they can come to Finance Committee.
- Economic Development: Chairman Rossi reported that there was discussion on a purchase of another property at Oak Grove on January 6.
- Redevelopment Authority: Nothing to report.
- EPFRAC: Ms. Hillery and Mr. Schrader have not attended meetings in a while.
- Affordable Housing: Nothing to report.
- Bylaw Review Committee: Nothing to report.

#### Minutes

*The committee reviewed draft minutes from October 23, 2019 and November 18, 2019.*

**Mr. Alessandri made a motion to approve the minutes of October 23, 2019, as amended; Mr. Dickie seconded. No discussion. Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Alessandri, aye; Dickie, aye; Hillery, aye; Lane, aye; O'Neill, aye; Rossi, aye; Segarra, aye; Sullivan, aye).**

**Mr. O'Neill made a motion to approve the minutes of November 18, 2019 as drafted; Mr. Alessandri seconded. No discussion. Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Alessandri, aye; Dickie, aye; Hillery, aye; Lane, aye; O'Neill, aye; Rossi, aye; Segarra, aye; Sullivan, aye).**

#### Adjourn

**At 8:04 PM Mr. Alessandri made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Dickie seconded. No discussion. Roll Call Vote: 8-0-0 (Alessandri, aye; Dickie, aye; Hillery, aye; Lane, aye; O'Neill, aye; Rossi, aye; Segarra, aye; Sullivan, aye).**

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanette Galliardt*