

Town Of Bedford
Finance Committee: February 11, 2016
7:30, Selectman's Meeting Room

Members Present:

Ben Thomas, Paul Mortenson, David Powell, Elizabeth McClung, Richard Bowen, Stephan Steele, Karen Dunn, Richard Bowen, Stephen Carluccio, Thomas Busa.

Absent: None

Quorum: Yes

Others Present:

Finance Director/ Treasurer & Collector: Victor Garofalo, Recreation Commission/
Community Preservation Committee: Robin Steele, Board of Assessors: Ron Cordes
Selectmen: William Moonan, Michael Rosenberg, School Committee: Ed Pierce, Richard
T. Reed, Town Manager, Jon Sills, Superintendent of Schools, Michael Rosen, Asst.
Town Manager, Alan Ferguson, Associate Assessor

Proceedings:

- *Meeting called to order at 7:34 by Stephan Steele, Committee Chairman.*

Motion: Movement by Stephan Steele to approve meeting minutes of February 3, 2016 as amended.

Motion seconded by Ben Thomas.

9:0:0

Agenda Item A: FY2017 Community Preservation Budget
Robin Steele presents regarding Community Preservation.

- Community Preservation estimates FY17 income will reach \$2,016,418.71.
- Throughout FY17 debts will be paid including:
 - A. Bond payments from town center, debt-ending FY21.
 - B. MEP project, debt-ending FY26.
 - C. Historical Properties Preservation Fund control. This debt represents the return of \$75,000, which was borrowed for use in a Depot Station Project.
 - D. Bond payment for 358 Concord Rd. (under open space) ending FY26.

A public hearing occurred January 26, 2016. The following article items were approved, and will occur on the warrant.

- For the purpose of historic preservation, the Job Lane house has been approved for the outfitting of fire protection sprinklers. This is the only town-owned building lacking fire protection. Also raised, is the issue of rotting exterior stairs that lead into Old Town Hall. The wooden stairs are to be replaced with stone.

- In the Affordable Housing Segment, \$30,000 has been allocated for a Housing Consultant/Municipal Affordable Housing “selling service.” \$375,000 has been marked for a Municipal Affordable Housing trust. This trust includes a kitchen and bathroom renovation for Ashby Place. Uncovered asbestos issues have raised project cost. Amount includes renovation of a second building as well.
- Recreation Appropriations include the bonding of Liljegren field (St. Michaels field.) The amount noted (\$38,000) stands as the first installment of an interest payment. Further funds have been set for the rehabilitation of Davidson Lane baseball fields. \$100,000 has been appropriated for Fawn Lake permitting and design. This sum includes the cost of hydraulic wet dredging, which will be performed on 60% of the pond. Last, is the fund for the Minuteman Bikeway extension. Community Preservation will cover \$225,000 of design costs, which total \$435,325. The remainder of design costs will be-funded by Ch.90 money. Construction has been quoted at \$1.2 million.
- Administrative costs total \$10,000 leaving \$277,000 remaining. \$100,000 of the remainder is benchmarked for the turf design of B-field (Wilson Field.) This article is undecided, and the money is being held until further discussion.

Committee poses questions for clarification. Determinations are as follows:

- It is the selectmen’s wish that one million dollars be left in a Historic Preservation fund for the protection against a theoretical drop or discontinuation of future Community Preservation funds. Community Preservation has borrowed against this account and intends to repay.
- It is suggested that if the funds were left in an unrestricted account the money could be taken out whenever needed. The account would be less constrained and could be withdrawn for another use.
- **Action:** The Finance Committee may wish to speak with the Historic Preservation Commission (Don Cory) regarding the reserved funds.

Jon Sills, Superintendent of School Speaks in attempt to heighten understanding regarding an addition to the Lane School Project.

- The issue of parking and traffic patterns surrounding the Lane schools has been raised. The school is requesting that cite-work to the parking lot is included with the planned construction project, for the purpose of easing vehicle congestion surrounding the school.
- Hard figures are not available at this time. General projection of cost is \$2-300,000 in addition to the amount previously requested.
- Architects are in the process of a feasibility study. The preliminary results of which will be known Wednesday the 17th. A public forum, followed by a meeting of the Feasibility Study Committee has been scheduled for Monday the 22nd in order to

prepare and present a recommendation to the School Committee Tuesday night March 1st.

- A schematic design will be in development by March 18th so that a solid figure may be brought forward to the town meeting.

The Committee follows up with deliberation. Determinations are as follows:

- Benefits of the notion may include using construction equipment for dual purposes, as well as processing the two projects as a single bonding effort.
- The two projects are not reliant upon each other. Separating the projects and postponing allows time for better plans and cost estimates.
- In the case that more information is provided before town meeting, the subject can be revisited.

Agenda Item B: FY2017 Operation Budget and Ambulance Enterprise Fund

The committee considers various fund allocations.

Resulting motions are listed:

- Finance Director, Treasurer/Collector Garofalo revised all the changes to the Model with regards to Revenue and Expenditures.
 - Changes were made to:
 - Insurance and Benefits – revised amount
 - Debt – Include new projects
 - Vocational Education – represents actual assessment
 - MWRA Sewer Assessment – preliminary numbers are showing about a 6% increase
 - Decrease in Sewer Revenue, which needs to be reflective of what is available at ATM.
 - Impact Aid – reflective of the current number on hand

Motion: Richard Bowen moves that \$500,000 is appropriated to the Stabilization Fund, FY2017.

Motion seconded by Paul Mortenson.

9:0:0 – motion passed

Motion: Richard Bowen moves that \$1,281,494 is appropriated to the OPEB Reserve. \$701,992 from Health Claims Trust Fund, and the remainder from a tax levy.

Motion seconded by David Powell.

3:6:0 – motion failed

Motion: Thomas Busa moves that \$701,992 is moved from Health Claims Trust Fund and is applied to OPEB liability. The line item listed at \$579,502 should be moved into Unused Levy Capacity.

Motion seconded by Paul Mortenson.

9:0:0 – motion passed

Motion: Richard Bowen moves that the Lane School Capital Project be funded with non-exempt debt, without debt exclusion.

Paul Mortenson seconds.

9:0:0 – motion passed

- Article 21, Transit Program proposal is being changed from a 12-month program to an 18-month program. Concerns include lack of management plan, wrongful marketing to the general public/subsidization of trips made by the general public as opposed to disabled and elderly groups, availability of lower cost alternatives, and lack of success metrics. The recommendation is made for the Selectmen to reconsider the article prior to it being solidified on the warrant.
- General Consensus is to defer the vote until the requested criteria is presented.
Surplus left as-is.

Motion: Thomas Busa recommends that the School Budget be approved at \$37,710,703.
Motion seconded by Richard Bowen.

7:0:2 – *Motion Passed*

Motion: Thomas Busa recommends the Selectmen's Budget for approval at \$42,755,780.
Motion seconded by Richard Bowen.

9:0:0 – *Motion Passed*

Motion: Thomas Busa recommends the Assessors Budget for approval at \$291,529.
Motion seconded by Richard Bowen.

9:0:0 – *Motion Passed*

Motion: Thomas Busa recommends the Planning Board Budget for approval at \$195,693.
Motion seconded by Richard Bowen.

9:0:0 – *Motion Passed*

Motion: Thomas Busa recommends the Board of Health Budget for approval at \$272,798.
Motion seconded by Richard Bowen.

9:0:0 – *Motion Passed*

Motion: Thomas Busa recommends the Library Budget for approval at \$1,152,003.
Motion seconded by Richard Bowen.

9:0:0 – *Motion Passed*

Motion: Thomas Busa recommends the Finance Committee Budget for approval at \$1,021,804.

Motion seconded by Richard Bowen.

9:0:0 – *Motion Passed*

Motion: Thomas Busa recommends Merit Article 26 Budget for approval at \$159,034.
Motion seconded by Richard Bowen.
9:0:0 – Motion Passed

Motion: Thomas Busa recommends the Vocational Education Budget for approval at \$495,000.
Motion seconded by Richard Bowen.
9:0:0 – Motion Passed

- Ambulance Enterprise Fund: Article 25, pg. 66. The Budget has increased 2.8%

Motion: Thomas Busa recommends Article 25, Ambulance Enterprise Budget as printed in the warrant.
Motion seconded by Richard Bowen.
9:0:0 – Motion Passed

Agenda Item C: *Town Meeting Warrant Article Recommendations.*
Individual Article items are voted on.

Motion: Thomas Busa recommends approval of Article 2.
Motion seconded by Richard Bowen.
9:0:0 – Motion Passed

Motion: Thomas Busa recommends approval of Article 3 (as printed in warrant.)
Motion seconded by Richard Bowen.
9:0:0 – Motion Passed

Motion: Thomas Busa recommends approval of Article 4.
Motion seconded by Richard Bowen.
9:0:0 – Motion Passed

Motion: Thomas Busa recommends Article 5 to be deferred until town meeting.
Motion seconded by Richard Bowen.
9:0:0 – Motion Passed

Motion: Thomas Busa recommends approval of Article 6.
Motion seconded by Richard Bowen.
9:0:0 – Motion Passed

Motion: Thomas Busa recommends Article 7 to be deferred until town meeting.
Motion seconded by Richard Bowen.
9:0:0 – Motion Passed

Motion: Thomas Busa recommends Articles 8-14* to be deferred until town meeting.
Motion seconded by Richard Bowen.
9:0:0 – Motion Passed

Motion: Thomas Busa recommends approval of Article 15.
Motion seconded by Richard Bowen.
9:0:0 – Motion Passed

Motion: Thomas Busa recommends approval of Article 16.
Motion seconded by Richard Bowen.
8:0:1 – Motion Passed

Motion: Thomas Busa recommends approval of Article 17.
Motion seconded by Richard Bowen.
9:0:0 – Motion Passed

Motion: Thomas Busa recommends Article 18 to be deferred until town meeting.
Motion seconded by Richard Bowen.
9:0:0

Motion: Thomas Busa recommends approval of Article 19.
Motion seconded by Richard Bowen.
9:0:0 – Motion Passed

Motion: Thomas Busa recommends approval of Article 20, line items 1-6, 8-11 with the exceptions of line items 7, 12 and 13, which are recommended for hold.

9:0:0 – Motion Passed

Line item 7- movement to disapprove 6:3:0

Line item 12- movement for approval 7:1:1

Line item 13- movement for approval 9:0:0

(Line item 12 seconded by David Powell, all other motions seconded by Richard Bowen.)

Motion: Thomas Busa recommends Article 21 to be deferred until town meeting.
Motion seconded by Richard Bowen.
8:0:1 – Motion Passed

Motion: Thomas Busa recommends Article 22 to be deferred until town meeting.
Motion seconded by Richard Bowen.
9:0:0 – Motion Passed

Motion: Thomas Busa recommends approval of Article 23.
Motion seconded by Richard Bowen.
9:0:0 – Motion Passed

Article 24- Operating Budgets listed under Agenda Item B.
Article 25- Ambulance Enterprise Budget listed under Agenda Item B.
Article 26- Salary Plan Additional Funding listed under Agenda Item B.

Motion: Thomas Busa recommends approval of Article 24-26.
Motion seconded by Richard Bowen.
9:0:0 – Motion Passed

Motion: Thomas Busa recommends approval of Article 27.
Motion seconded by Richard Bowen.
9:0:0 – Motion Passed

Motion: Thomas Busa recommends approval of Article 28.
Motion seconded by Richard Bowen.
9:0:0 – Motion Passed

Motion: Thomas Busa recommends approval of Article 29 for the amount of \$500,000.
Motion seconded by Richard Bowen.
9:0:0 – Motion Passed

Motion: Thomas Busa recommends Article 30 to be deferred until town meeting.
Motion seconded by Richard Bowen.
9:0:0 – Motion Passed

*Articles 8 & 12 have not yet had a public hearing. A Planning Board will be scheduled for discussion of Articles 8 & 12 to occur at the end of February or early March.

Agenda Item D: *Old Business New Business Meetings attended.*

- There will be no meeting on Thursday, February 18th due to school vacation week.
- The next Financial Committee meeting will occur on Thursday, February the 25th.

- *Meeting Adjourned at 10:49 by Stephan Steele, Committee Chairman*

- *Minutes submitted by Michelle Racette, Recording Secretary.*