

Finance Committee Meeting

Thayer Memorial Library – Dexter Room

March 7, 2017

6:00pm

Present: David DiTullio (DT), Emily Kerrigan (EK), Jay Riley (JR), Sue Thompson (ST), Cheryl Gariepy (CG)
Town Finance Director

Absent: Michelle Vasquez (MV)

- 1) JR Made a Motion to Call the Meeting to Order at 6:03pm, ST 2nd

Vote 4 Yes, 0 No

- 2) Postponed approval of minutes from 2/21 due to lack of quorum
- 3) NRSD Finance Director and NRSD School Committee members from Lancaster came forward to talk about school budget.
 - a. Public hearing was 3/1/17 and budget approval is on 3/15/17. Concern was expressed due to Lancaster's much higher increase than Bolton and Stow. This is due to them receiving larger reduction refunds. Superintendent Brooke Clenchy called DESE, who confirmed our number was accurate and that nothing could be done to change it.
 - b. Fincom asked for debt payments to be removed from the NRSD operating budget in coming years. Pat Marone is going to look into it being removed. School committee assured the Fincom that this is the absolute best budget they could provide knowing what they know from the forensic audit
 - c. Jennifer Leone shared that the walk in freezer at MRE was evaluated and it does not appear to have any major problems.
 - d. E+D revenue is at about \$1 million and teacher negotiations are ongoing with Unit C contract negotiations not yet started. Working on language cleanup in contracts.
 - e. Total enrollment in the district is about 3,500 students with the cost per pupil around \$14,000.
 - f. Cathy Codiane mentioned possibly becoming the new liason after Jennifer leaves.
- 4) Other Business
 - a. Lancaster has about 80% of its land mass as tax-exempt. Comes out to over \$4 million that cannot be collected. Helps explain some of Lancaster's difficulties.
 - b. Matching grants can be concerning for our budget. The money needs to be in free cash and the project needs to be complete d by May or not started until July 1st in order to accept a matching grant so the town doesn't get stuck with the bill.

- c. A citizen came forward to express concern about the Thayer Field committee. Fincom informed him that the Thayer Field committee is a subcommittee of the Recreation department. The only money given from the town for the Thayer project was for design.
- 5) Next meeting
 - a. Recreation committee
 - i. They go before planning board on March 27th
- 6) JR made a motion to adjourn at 7:41pm, DD 2nd

Vote 4 Yes, 0 No