

**Finance Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Town Hall ~ April 18, 2017**  
**Sturbridge, MA**

**Call to Order:**

The chair called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. The following committee members were present: Kathleen Neal (KN), James Waddick (JW), Suzanne Smiley (SS), Joni Light (JL), Jared Burns (JB), Michael Serio (MS), Larry Morrison (LM), Bruce Boyson (BB), and Mike Hager (MH). JW excused himself from this meeting to attend the BOS Public Hearing on Douty Road and returned at 8:33pm.

**Line Item Budget Review**

KN noted that there is a correction on line 108 in the Board of Health (BOH) Inspections & Testing personnel costs. The amount was based upon 18 hours and should be based on 19 hours as per confirmation from the Finance Director. The amount should be \$23,950.00. JL made that adjustment in the budget line item file.

MS continued discussion on the BOH personnel concerns, and shared his conversation with Linda Cocalis, the BOH Director. It was suggested that she attend a future meeting to clarify additional questions.

The following line item was reviewed for the Police Department. The motion was moved to accept by JL:

<b>Line:</b>	<b>Account:</b>	<b>Police Department</b>		
65	12101	Personnel Costs	\$2,336,123.00	JL; LM seconds. Motion accepted 8-0-0.
<b>Police Department Total</b>			<b>\$2,599,721.00</b>	<b>JL; LM seconds. Motion accepted 8-0-0.</b>

Moving onto discussion on the Tree Warden's budget. JL voiced her concerns again on the pesticide treatment of ash trees in Sturbridge for the Emerald Ash Borer Beetle. This brought much discussion of the various chemicals used, timing of treatments, how trees are chosen for treatment, and a host of other pertinent uneasiness over the threat of this insect.

MH moved the motion on the following line items for the Tree Warden:

<b>Line:</b>	<b>Account:</b>	<b>Tree Warden</b>		
83	12941	Personnel Costs	\$2,575.00	MH; SS seconds. Motion accepted 8-0-0.
85	12942-54000	Supplies	\$675.00	MH; SS seconds. Motion accepted 8-0-0.
86	12942-57000	Other Charges	\$1,125.00	MH; SS seconds. Motion accepted 8-0-0.

MH moved the motion to accept Line Item 84 for \$15,900.00; SS seconds. JL moved the motion to amend the original motion to accept Line Item 84 for \$14,500.00; JB seconds. There was additional conversation that ranged from questions on the chemicals being used and the effects to the environment; suggestions that treatment was excessive without a beetle in a 15-mile radius; suggestion that a thorough plan be put into place before treating trees with chemicals; unnecessary cost now with an already strict budget. The motion failed with 4-4-1 (MH, SS, BB, LM opposed; JW abstained). The original motion to accept Line Item 84 for \$15,900.00 was accepted with a vote of 5-4-0 (KN, JW, MS, JL opposing).

The following line items were reviewed for Council on Aging. The motion was moved to accept by MH:

<b>Line:</b>	<b>Account:</b>	<b>Council on Aging</b>		
109	15411	Personnel Costs	\$131,382.00	MH; BB. Motion accepted 9-0-0.
110	15412-52000	Purchase of Services	\$1,870.00	MH; BB. Motion accepted 9-0-0.
111	15412-54000	Supplies	\$1,700.00	MH; BB. Motion accepted 9-0-0.
112	15412-57000	Other Charges	\$2,400.00	MH; BB. Motion accepted 9-0-0.
113	15412-57110	Transportation	\$4,000.00	MH; BB. Motion accepted 9-0-0.
		Total Expenses	\$9,970.00	
		<b>Council on Aging Total</b>	<b>\$141,352.00</b>	<b>MH; BB. Motion accepted 9-0-0.</b>

The following line items were reviewed for the Recreation Department. The motion was moved to accept by JW:

<b>Line:</b>	<b>Account:</b>	<b>Recreation</b>		
126	16301	Personnel Costs	\$60,094.00	JW; LM seconds. Motion accepted 9-0-0.
127	16302-52000	Purchase of Services	\$12,673.00	
128	16302-54000	Supplies	\$2,650.00	JW; LM seconds. Motion accepted 9-0-0.
129	16302-56320	Team Sports	\$7,500.00	JW; LM seconds. Motion accepted 9-0-0.
130	16302-57000	Other Charges	\$210.00	JW; LM seconds. Motion accepted 9-0-0.
		Total Expenses	\$23,033.00	
		<b>Recreation Total</b>	<b>\$83,127.00</b>	<b>JW; LM seconds. Motion accepted 9-0-0.</b>

JW shared some of the discussion from the Public Hearing on the Douty Road Property from earlier this evening.

**No Old/New Business and No Public Access**

JL moved the motion to adjourn at 9:40pm; LM seconds. Meeting adjourned.

/jml