**Finance Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Tantasqua Regional High School ~ June 29, 2020**

**Sturbridge, MA**

**Call to Order**

The Finance Committee Chair called the Finance Committee meeting to order at 6:00 pm. The following committee members were present: Kathy Neal (KN), James Waddick (JW), Joni Light (JL), Michael Hager (MH), Jared Burns (JB), and Karen Davis (KD). Absent: Larry Morrison (LM), Bruce Boyson (BB), and Kevin Smith (KS).

Guests: Barbara Barry (BBa), Finance Director; Ken Lacey (KL), Health Agent; John Grasso (JG), Fire Chief

**Reserve Fund Transfer – Board of Health**

Board of Health request for $18,000.00 to pay for recycling center hauling and disposal costs. JL moved the motion to approve the transfer of $18,000.00 to Landfill Purchase of Services – Account #14302-52000; JW seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0.

KL stated that due to many issues caused by the COVID-19 situation, there have been increased costs associated with hauling and disposal at the recycling center.

**Reserve Fund Transfer – Finance Director**

Finance Director request for $38.00 to pay American Planning Association dues remaining balance due to an accounting error. JW moved the motion to approve the transfer of $38.00 to Planning Department - Other Charges, Account #11752-57000; JL seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0.

**Reserve Fund Transfer – Fire Chief**

Fire Chief request for $6,100.00 to pay for unexpected repairs to fire apparatus. JW moved the motion to approve the transfer of $6,100.00 to Fire Department – Purchase of Services, Account #12202-52000; JL seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0.

JG explained that the cost of maintenance is astronomical, but he was able to scale back on some programs due to COVID and absorb the maintenance costs to some degree. He stated that he tries to keep costs as low as possible but cannot predict catastrophic events.

**Review of Annual Town Meeting Articles**

Article 44 – Tax Rate Relief From Stabilization – JW moved the motion to transfer $570,000.00 from the Stabilization Fund; JB seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0.

Article 41 – Property Tax Exemption for Gold Star Parents – JB moved the motion to reconsider the previous vote of “No Action” taken on June 6, 2020; JW seconds. Motion to reconsider accepted 5-1-0 (MH against).

JB moved the motion to recommend approval of Article 41 as written; JL seconds. Motion defeated 2-2-2 (KD and MH against; JW and KN abstained).

JB explained that the legislation covers the divorced parents issue previously discussed by the Finance Committee. He added there are not many Gold Star families, defined as having a child killed in action while serving in combat; and reminded committee members that these parents may be paying off student loans and caring for the deceased’s children.

**No New Business**

**No Old Business**

**No Public Access**

**Meeting Minutes**

JL moved the motion to accept the May 21, 2020, minutes as corrected; JB seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0.

JW moved the motion to accept the May 28, 2020, minutes as corrected; JL seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0.

JL moved the motion to accept the June 6, 2020, minutes as presented; JW seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0.

KD moved the motion to adjourn; JW seconds. Motion accepted 5-0-1 (MH abstained) and meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

/jme