

Town of Weston

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 7, 2019

A meeting of the Finance Committee of the Town of Weston, which was duly called and posted in compliance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, was held on Thursday, February 7, 2019 at the Weston Police Station. There being a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 7:01 P.M.

Present for the meeting were:

Finance Committee: Lisa Reitano – Chair, Gerard Jansen, John McDonald, Jim Philipkosky, Ellen Richstone, John Sallay, and Bharath Venkataraman

Also Present: Leon Gaumond, Town Manager (by phone), Susan Kelley, Finance Director, Zoe Pierce, Treasurer/Collector, Tracy Sullivan, Director of Municipal Information Systems, Lee McCanne, Director of Technology & School Libraries, Michael Goulding, Police Chief, and Police Officer Michael Rizzitello

1. There were no resident comments.
2. John Sallay was appointed to serve as Secretary pro-tempore and charged with keeping the minutes of the meeting.
3. The minutes of the meeting of January 31, 2019 were unanimously approved.
4. John McDonald introduced Police Chief Michael Goulding, who presented the Police Department proposed budget.
 - a. Chief Goulding’s proposed budget envisions assigning a School Resource Officer to cover full-time the Weston High School and Weston Middle School, though not the addition of a police cruiser as originally contemplated. This new role does not require an increase in budgeted department personnel as it replaces an Administrative Sergeant position that has been unfilled since it was created a few years ago.
 - b. In part because the School Resource Officer position is a lower compensated position than the Administrative Sergeant role that it replaces, the overall proposed FY2020 police department budget has been reduced \$1,771 versus FY2019.
 - c. The Weston Police Department is continuing to work on restoring its accreditation by the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission.
 - d. Police Officer Michael Rizzitello introduced the department’s new K-9, Knox, a 15-month old German Shephard.
 - e. Chief Goulding offered to provide a tour of the police station to members of the Finance Committee after the meeting.

5. Bharath Venkataraman introduced Tracy Sullivan, Director of Municipal Information Systems, who presented the Information Systems (IS) proposed budget, together with Lee McCanne, Director of Technology & School Libraries.
 - a. Ms. Sullivan and Mr. McCanne discussed the net addition to department staffing for a new IT Network Manager position (.8 FTE working 30 hours per week). The individual who will be filling this position is Tu Vu, currently the School IT Network Manager. The Schools will be looking to fill his vacant full-time position (that is already in the School budget) when he moves over to the Town side. Consequently, the number of staff in the Town IS budget will be up by .8, but the schools will stay level in their IT area.
 - b. The proposed FY2020 IS budget is increased \$113,693 (+15.2%) versus FY2019, due primarily to an increase in salaries, along with software maintenance, and professional & consulting services.
 - c. Ms. Sullivan provided a list of 21 information technology projects planned for FY2020. Projects on this list that involve both the town and the schools are jointly managed by Ms. Sullivan and Mr. McCanne, and the costs are apportioned to the schools and town IS budgets appropriately.
 - d. Two issues that continue to pose challenges are 1) attracting and retaining qualified staff in an environment where talented people are in great demand by the private sector, and 2) cybersecurity.
6. Lisa Reitano provided a brief update on plans to meet with John Henry, School Committee chair, to discuss the proposed FY2020 school budget.
7. A motion to adjourn was made, duly seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

John M. Sallay