

**TOWN OF ROWLEY
FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of Meeting April 14, 2020
By Teleconference**

Finance Committee Attendance: Present were Larry White – Chairman, Sharon Emery – Vice Chair, Peter Censullo, Tom Corben, Dennis Roy, David Zizza and Theresa Coffey - Recording Secretary.

Other Attendees: Town Administrator Debbie Eagan, Treasurer/Collector Karen Summit, Highway Supt. Patrick Snow, Building Inspector Ken Ward, Police Chief Scott Dumas, and Assessor Sean McFadden

1. Call to Order – Chairman Larry White called the meeting of the Finance Committee to order at 12:31 pm. Attendance of Finance Committee members and other attendees was taken by roll call and is recorded above. Chairman White read the following announcement:

“Consistent with the Governor’s orders suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law and banning gatherings of more than 10 people, this meeting will be conducted by remote participation to the greatest extent possible. The public may not physically attend this meeting, but every effort will be made to allow the public to view and listen to the meeting in real time. Persons who wish to do so are invited to watch the meeting on Rowley Community Media TV / listen live on the RCM page on the Town’s website at www.townofrowley.net or join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone by using the [link or dial-in provided on the agenda]. In the event that live transmission proves infeasible, an audio or video recording, transcript or other comprehensive record of the meeting will be made available on the Town’s website as soon as possible.”

2. Review FY21 Budgets

- Police Department Revised Budget – Police Chief Scott Dumas informed the Finance Committee that contract negotiations with the police union are complete. Police wages in the FY21 budget reflect a two year adjustment for FY20 and FY21 as FY20 wages were based on the FY19 budget.

Sharon made a motion to approve the revised FY21 Police Department budget. Roy seconded the motion and it was approved by roll call vote: White – yes; Corben – yes; Emery – yes; Roy – yes; Zizza – yes. Censullo did not vote due to technical difficulties.

Assessors – Roy made a motion to accept the FY21 budget for the Assessor’s Department in the amount of \$156,979. Zizza seconded the motion and it was approved by roll call

vote: White – yes; Corben – yes; Emery – yes; Roy – yes; Zizza – yes. Censullo did not vote due to technical difficulties.

- Debt – Treasurer/Collector Karen Summit explained that the adjustment to the Debt budget is due to: 1) the Board of Selectmen decided to borrow for the balance of the fire truck which added \$6000 interest; and 2) on the advice of financial advisors, the interest on the Pine Grove School bond was increased from \$63,000 to \$99,000.

Roy made a motion to accept the revised FY21 Debt budget in the amount of \$1,154,507.53 Corben seconded the motion and it was approved by roll call vote: White – yes; Corben – yes; Emery – yes; Roy – yes; Zizza – yes. Censullo did not vote due to technical difficulties.

- Inspection Department – Building Inspector Ken Ward provided a breakdown of the additional funds requested in the Inspection Department FY21 budget including membership dues, phone service, and costs for state-mandated certifications. \$100 in the budget was identified as an Accounting matter and was removed from the budget request.

Roy made a motion to approve the FY21 Inspection Department budget in the amount of \$7,585. Zizza seconded the motion and it was approved by roll call vote: White – yes; Corben – yes; Emery – yes; Roy – yes; Zizza – yes. Censullo did not vote due to technical difficulties.

- Insurance – *Emery made a motion to approve the FY21 budget for Insurance, Unemployment, Retirement and Group Insurance. Corben seconded the motion and it was approved by roll call vote: White – yes; Censullo – yes; Corben – yes; Emery – yes; Roy – yes; Zizza – yes.*
- Highway Department - Roy noted errors on the budget worksheets.

Roy made a motion to table the FY21 budget for the Highway Department until corrected budget sheets were received. Zizza seconded the motion and it was approved by roll call vote: White – yes; Censullo – yes; Corben – yes; Emery – yes; Roy – yes; Zizza – yes.

- Snow and Ice Removal – *Zizza made a motion to approve the FY21 Snow and Ice budget. Emery seconded the motion and it was approved by roll call vote: White – yes; Censullo – yes; Corben – yes; Emery – yes; Roy – yes; Zizza – yes.*
- Tree Warden Budget – *Roy made a motion to approve the FY21 Tree Warden budget in the amount of \$23,804. Emery seconded the motion and it was approved by roll call vote: White – yes; Censullo – yes; Corben – yes; Emery – yes; Roy – yes; Zizza – yes.*
- Whittier Vocational Technical High School – *Zizza made a motion to approve the FY21 Whittier Vocational Technical High School budget. Emery seconded the motion.*

Censullo stated his concern with the percentage increase of the Whittier budget in comparison to the percentage increase of the Triton budget.

The motion was approved by roll call vote: White – yes; Censullo – no; Corben – yes; Emery – yes; Roy – yes; Zizza – yes.

- Triton Regional School – Emery made a motion to approve the FY21 Triton Regional School budget. Censullo seconded the motion and the vote taken by roll call was 3 in favor and 3 opposed: White – no; Censullo – yes; Corben – no; Emery – yes; Roy – yes; Zizza – no

White will report back to the Finance Committee regarding the ramifications of a tied vote.

- Essex Technical High School – Emery made a motion to approve the FY21 Essex Technical High School budget. Roy seconded the motion.

Censullo stated his concern with the percentage increase of the Essex Technical High School budget in comparison to the percentage increase of the Triton Regional School budget.

The motion was approved by roll call vote: White – yes; Censullo – no; Corben – yes; Emery – yes; Roy – yes; Zizza – yes.

3. Set Meeting Dates – The next meeting will be held on April 21, 2020 at 12:30 pm.
4. Adjourn – At 1:41 pm, Zizza made a motion to adjourn. Corben seconded the motion and it was approved by roll call vote: White – yes; Censullo – yes; Corben – yes; Emery – yes; Roy – yes; Zizza – yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Coffey
Finance Committee Secretary

Documents used at or for the meeting:

Agenda for April 14, 2020

FY21 Budgets:

Inspectional
Assessors
Highway Department
Snow & Ice
Tree Warden
Insurance

Whittier Voc. Tech. High School
Triton Regional School
Essex Technical High School
Debt – revised
Police - revised