

**TOWN OF ROWLEY
FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of Meeting February 6, 2018
Rowley Town Hall**

Members Present: Lawrence White, Chairman, Sharon Emery, Vice Chairman, Peter Censullo, Paul Jalbert, Dennis Roy, and Jami Snow

1. Call to Order - Larry White, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:18 pm with a quorum present.

2. Approve Minutes

- Minutes of Meeting held November 14, 2017 – Roy requested that titles be included for “Other Attendees” where applicable.

Roy moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held November 14, 2017. Jalbert seconded. The vote was unanimous in favor.

- Minutes of Meeting held January 9, 2018 – Snow moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held January 9, 2018. Emery seconded. The vote was unanimous in favor.

3. Review Peabody Essex Museum Letter – Jalbert provided an overview of the events that have taken place in relation to Rowley property [306 Newburyport Turnpike] that has been acquired by the Peabody Essex Museum for storage and archives of historic items and documents. The PEM has been granted tax exempt status for this building. Jalbert held a meeting with town officials to discuss the importance of this new PEM facility. By a letter from the Selectmen, town officials will request a meeting with the director of the PEM to welcome him to the Rowley community and to develop a relationship with this prestigious institution.

Emery moved that Chairman Larry White sign the letter. Snow seconded. The vote was unanimous in favor.

4. Review Revolving Accounts in FY19 Budgets – White briefly reviewed the reports of revolving accounts that were distributed to the FinCom and suggested that discussion be held during departmental budget presentations to address questions and concerns directly with department heads. Discussion took place on the balances in some accounts and the possibility of using those funds, noting that some accounts have restrictions on the use of the money.

5. FY19 Triton Regional School District Budget – White reported that the BOS last night discussed the Triton budget. The BOS is recommending Scenario 3 as shown on the FY19 Budget Assessment Scenarios included in the meeting packet. [*Censullo stepped out of the meeting at this time.*] White will distribute a copy of the letter from the Rowley fiscal staff to the BOS which responds to the documentation from the regional school district. A preliminary budget meeting has been scheduled for February 8. White stressed the importance of Rowley having a presence at this meeting to show a united front of the BOS, Finance Committee and fiscal team for the recommendation of Scenario 3.

Emery moved that the Finance Committee support Scenario 3. Snow seconded.

Discussion: Roy questioned the positions of Salisbury and Newbury. White shared budget related information that was discussed at the Salisbury Warrant Advisory Committee meeting that he attended. White had no information on Newbury.

The vote was 5 in favor, 1 absent (Censullo).

White suggested that the Finance Committee submit a letter to the BOS stating support for Scenario 3. [*Censullo returned to the meeting at this time.*] Discussion continued on this subject as well as the decrease of state funding for regional schools and the resulting financial strain on town budgets.

6. Next Meeting – The next Finance Committee meeting was set for February 20, 2018.

7. Water Department – Snow reported on the status of the Water Department budget process and stated that she is pleased with the progress and time that Commissioner Cullen has put into the budget. Roy stated his appreciation for being included in budget meetings and for the work that the commissioners are doing to clear up the “gray areas” of the Water Department budget. As well, the formatting is being changed to make it easier to read and understand. Snow concurred saying that the format is concise and efficient. Snow briefly reported on the status of the Superintendent position.

7. Adjournment: *Emery moved to adjourn. Jalbert seconded and the vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.*

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Coffey
Finance Committee Secretary