

**Finance Committee  
Selectboard  
January 25, 2017  
Town Offices**

The regular meeting of the Finance Committee and Selectboard of the Town of Whately was called to order on January 25 at 6:00 pm by the Chair, Paul Antaya. Present were Finance Committee members Dan Kennedy, Tom Mahar, Jim Kirkendall, Fred Baron; Selectboard members, Paul Newlin, Fred Orloski, Jonathan Edwards; Town Administrator Brian Domina and Administrative Assistant, Maryellen Cranston.

Motion was made, and seconded, to approve minutes of the Finance Committee meeting from December 20, 2016. Vote was unanimous.

**Review FY18 budget process and schedule** – Both groups agreed to the proposed schedule with small revisions. The February 1<sup>st</sup> meeting will begin at 7 pm. Discussion occurred regarding which department heads should attend the meetings. The library will be moved to February 8<sup>th</sup>. Each Board will vote separately on the budget and meet jointly to discuss differences. Discussion occurred regarding town hall funding. CPC chair, Alan Sanderson will be invited to the February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting to discuss this issue.

**FY18 Budget Outlook** – The Governor's budget was released today. He is proposing small increases in local aid and school funding.

**Discussion of Capital Planning Improvement Committee recommendations and Review FY18 proposed capital expenditures** – After extensive discussion, there was consensus to hear from every department regarding background of the need for the capital item being requested.

**Items not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting** – The FY17 tax rate increase was due to the following:

1. Increase in the Operating Budget from FY16 to FY17 for \$250,370. The town has \$135,000 in debt service to start FY18 in capital costs. Discussion occurred regarding establishing a reasonable matrix to determine the validity of future capital purchases. There is no constant to judge which way the budget is going based on the need of the town. Another suggestion was made to stagger expenses over 5 years. This issue will be discussed at future meetings. Brian will investigate the best way to establish a facilities management plan.
2. Decrease in the Total Assessed Value of Properties -
3. Prior Year Tax Rate Set Artificially Low Due to Reporting Error
4. Triennial Certification of Assessed Property Values – Discussion occurred regarding the increase in building values.

Discussion occurred regarding the management of town owned property. There was consensus that much of it is not marketable.

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:35 pm

Respectfully submitted,

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Brian Domina, Town Administrator

**Document List**

- 1-24-17 Initial Draft Budget Review Schedule
- 1-25-17 Memorandum re FY17 Review
- 1-23-17 email regarding Fire Department and Police Capital Requests
- 1-9-17 Memorandum re FY2018 Capital Planning Project Submissions
- 1-19-17 Five Year Capital Improvement Plan