

**Finance Committee
Selectboard
March 1, 2017
Town Offices**

The regular meeting of the Finance Committee and Selectboard of the Town of Whately was called to order on March 1 at 6:00 pm by the Chair, Paul Antaya. Present were Finance Committee members Bob Fydenkevez, Dan Kennedy, Tom Mahar, Jim Kirkendall, Fred Baron and Joe Zwenski; Selectboard members, Paul Newlin, Jonathan Edwards (arrived late) and Fred Orloski; Town Administrator Brian Domina and Administrative Assistant, Maryellen Cranston.

Motion was made, and seconded, to approve minutes of the Finance Committee meeting from February 15, 2017, Vote was unanimous.

Review the recommendations from the Personnel Committee for salary adjustments and COLA – Brian provided a summary of the Personnel Committee recommendations based on CPI and comparable towns. Discussion occurred on what metrics the Town should use to determine a COLA. Some members of the Finance Committee are interested in comparing the total cost of employee salary and benefit packages to comparable towns. The Personnel Committee will work on this going forward. Joe felt the Finance Committee should be discussing what's fair and what we can afford. Motion was made, and seconded, to table the COLA discussion until next week. Vote was unanimous.

Initial discussion of first draft of the FY18 budget – Brian reviewed the initial Budget Projections. These numbers will change as we get closer to town meeting. Brian will investigate why veterans/elderly exemptions are down. Brian suggested considering a policy decision to not use non-recurring revenue to lower tax payments. There was consensus to keep the taxpayer in mind when setting the tax rate this year. The budget would need to be reduced by \$66,500 to keep the tax rate approximately the same.

Brian reviewed the Preliminary Omnibus Budget. The bulk of the school increase is attributed to Franklin Tech.

Items not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting Fred reviewed a draft agenda for the April 3 Town Hall informational and Financial Planning meeting. It was recommended to get the total amount spent on town hall/moving the center of town over the past 20 years.

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:28 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Domina, Town Administrator

Document List

3/1/17 Memorandum regarding Personnel Committee Recommendation – FY2018
FY18 Cost of Living Projections
3/1/17 Consumer Price Index Overview Table – New England.
News Release – Consumer Price Index Boston-Brockton Nashua
News Release – Consumer Price Index Northeast Region
FY18 Salary Review Based on Collins Center Salary Survey
Collins Center Salary Survey Actual Rates
3/1/17 Budget Projections #1
3/1/17 Preliminary Omnibus Budget
Town Hall Update and Financial Planning Meeting
3/1/17 Memorandum FY2018 – Budget Projections #1