

Spencer Finance Committee  
March 6, 2018,  
7:00 PM Spencer Town Hall,  
157 Main Street, Spencer, MA 01562  
Conference Room A  
Minutes

**Call meeting to order** : 7:06 p.m.

Members present: Mary Braney, Chair, Paul McLaughlin, Vice Chair, Nancy Herholz, Clerk, Paul Bouvier, Bill Wall, Chris Bowen & Chris Woodbury

**Announcement**

Any members that are participating remotely in accordance with Regulation 940, CMR 29.10 of the Open Meeting Law: Tom Parker

**Minutes of February 26, 2018 Finance Committee**

Motion to accept as written: Chris Woodbury

Second: Tom Parker

Approved: Roll Call vote taken: Unanimous

**Correspondence** :

Hard copies of the *Financial Policy Manual/Town of Spencer* from D.L.S. & Statement of Assessment from Bay Path Vocation Regional High School

**Update on Financial Policies Document** - Mary Braney

A feasibility study is in process for (re)adopting/accepting amended/rewritten articles and Bylaws.

**Initial Town Administrator Budget Presentation** - Bill Ross

Stated that the general fund budget (which he will send to committee via email) has no major changes. Mr. Ross stated he used the governor's figures to consider the amount of local aid from the state and presented/hi-lighted areas such as changes with regard to contract salaries, hours that were added back into the budget for the town hall and library; monies allotted for a full time town accountant, of which Mr. Ross strongly suggested and firmly believes is a very important part which strengthens the internal operating controls and support to fiscal affairs of the town, an additional highway person and the schools request for significant funding above the Minimum Local Contribution (MLC) in order to meet the needs for special and regular education, as the district strives towards reinstating and creating positions.

A study of the library heating/hvac system) has been done, which a three (3) year plan to redo the system...the system is beyond being able to extend its life with patch-work maintenance; it is extremely necessary that the system is replaced.

Will be releasing *Request for Proposal* (RFP) for the sale of Lake Street School.

Final comment made was with regard to the solar farm to be installed by Citizen's Energy Group, on the transfer station site, projected to generate \$320,000.00 revenue.

Discussions, questions and comments

#### **Update on SEBRSD budget request**

Mr. Ross discussed the "state of the school district; and the underlying issues, such as the district's special and regular educational requirements and the need for approximately half a million dollars increase; attributing the increase to the Minimum Local Contribution, 12 additional positions and the lack of funding from the state. The budget remains a work-in-progress.

Discussion, questions and comments

#### **Liaison Reports:**

Capital Planning – Nancy Herholz reported that the Committee has had two meetings, first one for informational purposes and tonight's meeting (earlier 5:00 p.m.) Committee met with 1<sup>st</sup> of 2 groups:

James Plante, Superintendent & Frank White, Commissioner for the Sewer Department

Chief Robert Parsons for the Fire Department

Rob Churchey, Chair, Bill Shemeth & Dennis , members for the Parks & Recreation

Financial Management Planning Committee – Paul McLaughlin & Tom Parker  
No Meetings

SEBRSC- Bill Shemeth

After consideration of two (2) finalists for the district superintendent's position, Mr. Paul Haughey of Blackstone, formerly was director of curriculum and instruction for the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District, has been chosen.

Discussion with regard to regular & special needs education; charter school tuition; looking to keep/bring back students/children to the Spencer school district.

Will resubmit the request for funding assistance from the Mass School Building Authority for the major renovation project for the David Prouty High School.

Discussion, questions and comments

#### **Any other**

Discussion with regard to lowering the number of members serving on the finance committee. Presently, it is an eleven (11) member committee but has been unable to have a full complement of members for some time. It was agreed to postpone further action and try to recruit new members.

**Adjourn** 8:08 p.m.

Motion made by: Chris Bowen

Second: Paul McLaughlin

Approved: Roll Call vote taken: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

*Nancy E. Herholz*

**Upcoming Finance Committee meetings:**

Tuesday Mar. 13, 2018: SelectBoard Meeting (special) – Joint with Finance Committee Budget Presentations from Public Works (Sewer, Water, Highway, Transfer Station and U&F) and Library

Tuesday Mar. 20, 2018: SelectBoard Meeting – Joint with Finance Committee Budget Presentations from Police, Fire, Parks & Recreation, COA, Town Clerk & Finance

Monday Mar. 26, 2018: SelectBoard Meeting – Joint with Finance Committee FY2019 Budget Update/Review Annual Town Meeting Warrant & Budget Presentations from Bay Path Vocational District 7:00 PM and SEBRSD 7:30 PM

Tuesday Apr. 10, 2018: Finance Committee: Public Hearing on FY2019 Budget (McCourt Social Hall) and Vote Recommendations on Annual Town Meeting Warrant