

Barrington Committee on Appropriations

Meeting Minutes

March 29, 2016

Opening

The regular meeting of the Barrington Committee on Appropriations was called to order at 7:04 p.m. on March 29, 2016 in the Barrington Senior Center by Chad Mollica.

Present

Peter Dennehy, Melissa Horne, Chad Mollica and Richard Staples.

Also attending: Tony Arico

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were unanimously approved as distributed.

Open Issues

The Committee discussed the meeting schedule, which apparently is to be updated by Geoff Grove.

Chad Mollica proposed requesting that each member of the Committee be provided with a printed copy of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

Chad Mollica opened the discussion of the FY17 Municipal Budget. Melissa Horne observed that the increase in the budget is primarily attributable to salary increases. She also noted that the introductory budget highlights indicate that union contract negotiations are on-going and questioned whether the figures proposed in the budget are subject to change.

Chad Mollica observed that it is difficult for the Appropriations Committee to address salaries without being involved in the negotiations. He also questioned whether there are any new services being proposed as a result of the increased budget.

Richard Staples stated that it would be helpful to know what happened in previous contract negotiations so we could predict where the negotiations may go this year. There ensued a general discussion of the past history of contract negotiations and the role of the Appropriations Committee in establishing salaries and budget items generally.

The Committee also discussed the amount and disposition of the various types of reserves. The Committee members agreed to ask Geoff Grove to request information regarding the history of the capital reserve fund, the rainy day fund and the School Department reserve fund, including the amount in each fund at the conclusion of each fiscal year and the ultimate disposition of

those funds. Richard Staples inquired whether there is a need to maintain a specific balance in the rainy day fund to prevent any adverse impact on the Town's bond rating.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m. by Chad Mollica. The next general meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on April 5, 2016 in the Barrington Senior Center Activity Room.

Minutes submitted by: Melissa Horne