

Westhampton Finance Committee Meeting
December 6, 2016

Meeting opened at 7:01 pm

Present: Tom Cleary (chair), Steve Holt, Mary Cleary, Maryanne Duggan, Jackie Brodeur, Ellice Gonzalez Brandow, Steve Gagne, Joe Pipczynski, and Chevy Seney (secretary).

Also present: Joe Boudreau (Town Accountant), Phil Dowling (Select Board), Cheryl Provost (Assistant Town Clerk), and Chris Norris (Fire Chief)

Motion to accept the minutes from the November 15th meeting was approved.

Vote 8-0-0

The *Beacon* is available for review.

New Business

Joe B. shared historical information about Local Estimated Receipts. The difference between projected income and actual income was the focus of the overview. The Town Assessor had asked the Finance Committee to increase projected income for FY17 from \$345,000 to \$375,000. By doing so she projected a lower increase in the tax rate.

A motion to increase projected income for FY17 from \$345,000 to \$360,000 passed.

Vote: 9-0-0

Old Business

Joe B. shared information about the certification of Free Cash and highlighted the historic amounts of Free Cash over the past seventeen years. Conversation about placing some of FY16 Free Cash into the Stabilization Fund ensued. Phil D. shared a “working” Capital Planning spreadsheet that presented possible yearly contributions to the Stabilization Fund over the next fifteen years. No formal proposal regarding Free Cash was made.

Steve H. and Maryanne D. reported that any documents generated for town committee use are public record. Cheryl P. clarified the difference between Open Meeting Law and the Public Records Law.

Letters will be sent to town departments requesting budget estimates for FY18.

Next meeting topics:

- 1) Work the revenue side of the budget with estimates from town departments
- 2) Discuss the role of the Finance Committee in advising the town on expenditures; past departmental expenditures and future departmental requests.

Ellice announced her resignation from Finance Committee as of December 31, 2016.

Next Meeting: January 10, 2017 at 7:00

Motion to Adjourn at 8:47 was approved. Vote 8-0-0

Respectfully submitted,
Chevy Seney