

Town of Plympton Finance Committee Minutes
Monday, March 23, 2020
Via Tele-Conference

The meeting was called to order at: 5:37 p.m. via *Free Conference Call*

Members In attendance: Nathaniel Sides (NS), Kathryn Shepard, (KS), Steve Lewis (SL), Michael Lemieux (ML) and Marilyn Browne (MB). Also calling in were Barbara Gomez (BG), town accountant, Liz Dennehy (LD), town administrator, Jon Wilhelmsen (JW), committee chairman of the Dennett Elementary School, Jason Fraser (JF), representing the Dennett and Silver Lake Regional School (SLRS) committees, Jill Proulx, (JP), superintendent SLRS, Christine Healy (CH), administrator of business services from SLRS, and Stephen Silva (SS), fire chief.

Approval of Minutes

Date	Motion by	Seconded by	Vote
March 2, 2020	SL	ML	Unanimous

In general the meeting was to go over revenue forecasting done by BG and to discuss budget requests from the local and regional schools as well as the fire department.

FinCom is trying to keep the property tax increase to no more than 2.5% over the previous year. It will be a challenge since total revenues at this time are estimated to be approximately \$12.5 million and the target spending is \$12.1 million leaving only about \$93,000 for all warrant articles.

ED spoke about the Planning Board's request for clerical help and the anticipated initial costs for getting the new fiber optic communication system running for the Town House, Fire and Police Departments.

Dennett School budget request presented by JW is pretty much level funding with the addition of a special needs teacher. JF explained that it costs more to send a child in need of these services out of district than the cost of a new teacher which does not include the transportation expense. They will be returning \$45,000 to the town and would like to see those allocated in warrant articles to cistern cleaning and a one-time technology purchases.

JF, CH & JP presented the SLRS budget which is a 0.4% increase. Overall the regional increase is 2.72%. Plympton's smaller increase reflects a drop in the number of our students. The budget presented level services with two middle school teachers cut and two teachers added.

Fire Chief is looking for a 13% budget increase. He discussed the maintenance need for equipment saying that once the initial work is completed this line should decrease in the future. Currently there is a need for reserve fund transfers of approximately \$20,000 for the operating budget and a possible \$27,000 for payroll until the end of the year depending on COVID-19 responses. Reserve fund transfer request for the operating budget will be submitted at the next meeting.

The ROCC charges for emergency dispatching for the upcoming year have decreased to \$100,000 per ED with a “not to be exceeded” figure for the following year.

At our next meeting on April 6th will make final budget recommendations and review all warrant articles not seen to date.

Motion to Adjourn: at 7:52 p.m. motion made by SL, seconded by ML, unanimous vote in favor.

Next meeting will be on April 6, 2020 at 5:30 p.m., presumably by tele-conference.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilyn Browne, Secretary