Notice of Public Meeting – (As required by G.L. c. 30 A, c. §18-25)

DEPT./BOARD:  Ways and Means
DATE:  February 6, 2019
Time  7:00 PM
PLACE: Town Hall Meeting Room

AGENDA

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comments

Presentation of Master/combination town budget

Operating Budgets

Capital Budgets

Budget Books/e-Budget access provided to committee

Review of minutes December 12, 2018 and January 16, 2019

Other Business

Adjourn
TOWN OF BURLINGTON
Meeting Posting

Email Posting to meetings@burlington.org or Bring to the Clerks Office. Thank you

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- Directions to the School Committee Conference Room

located in the BHS Central Administration Wing.

Go about half way around the school; go past the cafeteria entrance and the BCAT entrance,

The entrance is just past the sign for BHS Central Administration.
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE Ways and Means
BURLINGTON, MA

February 6, 2019

Present: Roger Riggs-Chairman, Steve Morin- Vice-Chairman, Doug Davidson, Phil Gallagher, Michael Hardy, Susan Harrigan, John Iler, Frank Monaco, David Tait, Nicholas Priest, Brad Bond, Sonia Rollins, Jayashvee Viruganti
Absent: Tom Killilea and Diane Creedon

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 7:00
Guests:
John Petrin – Town Administrator
Paul Sagarino Jr. – Interim Town Administrator
John Danizio – Town Accountant. Town Assistant Administrator
Whitney Haskell – Budget Analyst

Pledge of Allegiance
Citizen Time: no one present to speak

Budget Books/e-Budget access provided to committee. Ms. Haskell reviewed the budget books and explained the book is available online. She stated the biggest change is the consolidation of the Legislative Committee. She explained they had combined the Town Moderator, Ways and Means, Capital Budget and Zoning Bylaw review. The new committee is under Dept 119 in the book.

Presentation of Master/combination Town Budget
Mr. Danizio reviewed the guidelines for the 2020 budget. Levy 4.5%, Accommodated 7.0% and Operating 3.5%. increases. (blended School and Town) He stated we start off in a 1.4 million deficit, because revenue and state aid is not accounted for.

Mr. Monaco clarified the operating budget percentages, how the town offsets the school budget. He asked about ways to close the gap and was informed an increase in revenue, decrease in accommodated budget, local receipts are some of the ways.

Mr. Saragino stated they start off in a deficit and work to decrease it. He stated there is a police officer being added, along with the new building inspector, which was funded by a previous warrant article, therefore they are added into their operating budgets. He explained there would be a new position, an Economic Development Coordinator. He stated it would be a separate warrant for the first year and that it was not in any budget at the time. It was unsure whose budget the position would go under.

Ms. Rollins commented she believed this position is critical for the town to keep it competitive with surrounding towns.
Mr. Hardy stated there are 3 new positions and 2 of them are revenue positive, bringing in tax revenue for the town.

Mr. Monaco spoke about the negotiated settlements not being included in the budget and how that affects the department budgets.

Mr. Sagarino stated there were some cuts to the Town Administration budget requests, but in the future, it is important that everyone is on the same guidelines. He spoke about the budgets that do not go through the same process and guidelines. Several members stated they were not aware of that.

Ms. Rollins stated if guidelines are not met, they must state their case as to why they are over.

Mr. Bond pointed out, it is important to look at the whole picture and what can they continue providing services at a lower cost and how can the department cut back.

Mr. Sagarino also spoke about the new FCC regulations and the changes from cell towers to mini cell towers that would be placed on the telephone poles and/or street light poles. He explained that there may be a need for a consultant to help with the new process. He stated they would be placed about 100 feet apart.

Mr. Monaco stated they had previously been proactive and it goes beyond the overlay.

Mr. Petrin stated it was for 5G network and the only thing the town can do is adjust for aesthetics.

Mr. Iler stated he thought they were ugly and if the town would have conditions what goes up and if they can we charge rent. He was told they did not know and it was something that should be looked into.

Mr. Morin asked if each cell provider would have their own on the pole and was informed yes, there might be up to 6 providers on each pole.

Mr. Riggs thanked Mr. Petrin for his contributions to the town and the Ways and Means Committee.

Motion made and seconded to approve the minutes from December 12, and January 16th, with the changes recommended.

Mr. Tait requested an updated schedule and subcommittee assignments.
A discussion on the debt schedule took place because of the number of upcoming projects. In the past, free cash was used to pay down some of the debt. It was proposed there should be a presentation of the Capital budget be in a joint meeting.

Discussion if the Cisco account should go under MIS.
The Capital Budget submissions are due Friday, the 8th.

Resolving Accounts waiting for a few more submissions.
Motion made and seconded to adjourn. All members voted to adjourn.