TOWN OF BURLINGTON

Meeting Posting

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

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

DEPT./BOARD: Ways and Means
DATE: March 20, 2019
Time 7:00 PM
PLACE: Town Hall Main Meeting Room

AGENDA

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Public Comments
- Updates to budget documents
- 113 Town Meeting and Reports -TH1
- 141 Assessors – TH1
- 210 Police – Public Safety
- 220 Fire - Public Safety
- 291 Emergency Management – Public Safety
- Other town budgets
- Review of minutes
- Adjourn
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE Ways and Means
BURLINGTON, MA

March 20, 2019

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

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 7:00
Guests:
Paul Saragino, Jr. – Town Administrator
John Danizio – Town Accountant, Town Assistant Administrator
Whitney Haskell– Budget Analyst
James Doherty – Assessor
Michael Kent – Police Chief
Thomas Browne – Police Deputy Chief
Steve Yetman – Fire Chief
Michael Patterson – Assistant Fire Chief, Emergency Management

Pledge of Allegiance
Public Comments – no one was present
Updates to budget documents–none

113 Town Meeting and Reports –TH1 subcommittee met to discuss the budget. There are 2 main components: the annual report and the part time salary. Subcommittee voted 2–0 to support. Motion made and seconded to support the budget of $15,908. 9–0–0

141 Assessors – TH1 subcommittee met to discuss the budget. There is a 1.21% increase. Subcommittee voted 2–0 in support. Mr. Doherty explained there was a minor change. He explained contributing to the increase is the transition stipend for hiring his replacement. He added the contract with Patriot is now for 9 years and the state changed the inspection frequency to be every 5 years.
Discussion included the Geographical Information Service (GIS) the town uses, members questioned if it should fall under a single department, Mr. Doherty explained there are several departments using it, and they meet on a regular basis, he added he doesn’t feel the need to hire a full–time person to oversee GIS. Motion made and seconded to support the budget of $410,993. 10–0–0

210 Police – Subcommittee met to discuss the budget. The budget has a 0.12% increase. This increase does not include the cost of living increases. Contributing to the increase is the contracted services for the tracking system and new tactical medical kits. Subcommittee voted 2–0 in support.
Chief Kent explained the new automated system helps support the efficiency in scheduling, collections and accounting of police paid details. He reported this system has helped tremendously in receiving payments from details. He stated they will be hiring another officer and the budget reflects his/her pay for 6 months, and due to recent retirements they have been able to save. Discussion included the increase in violence seen more broadly – is the training budget appropriate. Chief Kent responded they are currently being more present in the schools and houses of worship. The taser program – the money is there, but have not been purchased, and the cruiser replacement program was also discussed. Motion made and seconded to support the budget of $8,890,652. 10–0–0.

220 Fire – Subcommittee met to discuss the 2020 budget. There is a 1.91% increase. Contributing to the increase are salaries and overtime. There is an 11.27% increase in the overtime account due to current contractual agreements with the firefighters’ union. Also adding to the budget is contracted services – it cost $7,000 for Fire Data management software. Subcommittee voted 2–0 in favor to support.

Other discussion included the overtime needed to cover gaps in shifts due to illness, gaps in staffing, and other absences. There is a difficulty to hire new firefighters and the length of time before they can actually start, they try to hire EMT and medics and unfortunately it is a problem in surrounding towns too. Station 2 is schedule to open the 1st week of June.

Mr. Killilea asked about the recent report about the equipment that causes cancer. It was explained the equipment is cleaned properly and they replace the equipment as needed.

Motion made and seconded to support the budget of $7,735,589. 9–0–1

291 Emergency Management – Subcommittee met to discuss the 2020 budget, Subcommittee voted 2–0 in support. Discussion included different scales of emergencies, a Generator in the Human Service Building, allows it be a shelter for up to 200 people, Wegman’s works well with the BOH in emergencies, and if necessary, the town can request assistance from other towns. Other items discussed included the use of the High School gym as a shelter would require a 100% generator in the building and it was pointed out, when renovations are being completed for the High School, the generator should be considered in the budget. Clarification of who sets up the shelter and certain town employees have particular roles if there is an emergency. Mr. Patterson stated the Emergency management position is clear and it is working well. He added stipend is adequate. He added that he is part of the regional Committee. Motion made and seconded to support the budget of $23,600. 9–0–1

Other discussions include a request to receive reports regarding the distribution of free cash and stabilization fund.

Minutes – motion made and seconded to approve the minutes of March 6th. 10–0–0.

Adjourn – Motion made and seconded to adjourn. All members voted to adjourn.