



Freetown Finance Committee



March 3, 2016 @ 7:00 PM

Brad called meeting to order 7:02 PM

Members Present: Brad, Paul, Kent, Bob

Kent made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Paul – approved.

Brad said this would be a budget workshop – any issues with the budget

1. Information should be asked for as a unit
2. Possibility of getting a Town Manager to tend to day to day management of town
3. FinCom representation when negotiating contracts
4. 21E – who pays, are we still under the auspice of a super site
5. \$110,00 to Town Administrator plus a car for part-time
6. E&D fund – Lakeville planning on using \$.5 mil to fund school budget, legal issue?
7. Audit of school budget done by DOE or DOR

Kent gave a synopsis of the School Committee Meeting – Freetown FinCom there as guest only. They are looking for a 2.5% increase from Lakeville and a 2.5% increase from Freetown, currently it is split 57% Lakeville and 43% Freetown. Freetown BOS is not in agreement – if Freetown enrollment is decreasing why do we need to add more, why is the price going up? Freetown's last assessment is that enrollment is 1.28% below last year.

Paul stated that the budget has been broken down by percent in the past and this year the calculations have to be done on own. Also the BOS column says that they recommend and the FinCom column is empty. Has the BOS made recommendation without the FinCom? The FinCom would like to meet with the BOS on the individual budgets and make recommendations on a united front at the town meeting whenever possible. One purpose for meeting with the BOS is to save time with department heads making their requests in front of the BOS and FinCom and negotiating before town meeting.

It was suggested that maybe there could be a Tax-Payer Association of 100 plus knowledgeable people to share their knowledge with the town to instill voting power in the townspeople.

Brad thought that maybe the FinCom would like to tour the town buildings to see where there is maintenance needed and where it has already been completed. All members present were for this suggestion and Brad will set something up.

Another suggestion was that the town be held to no more than a 2% increase to each department. The plan has been in place in Cambridge for some years and seems to be a viable recommendation.



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Some increases that the FinCom found more review was required:

- Fire – 3.7%, O/T for fire is 11.88% of budget
- Police – 4%
- Electric – 148% plus
- Animal Control – 12.4%, most goes to Lakeville for boarding, working 20-32 hours per week
- Cemetery – 95.1%, had to add insurance, have a guy mowing for six months
- Highway – 53%, added two operators, one leaving, clerk
- Veterans – 63%
- Trash – new bids

It was suggested to wait until the meeting with the BOS on Monday, March 7th, before continuing with the list of issues.

Paul made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bob.

Meeting adjourned 8:37 PM

Respectfully submitted
Lois Amaral
Finance Committee Clerk