

Finance Committee Meeting February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 7:00 PM EST  
Veterans Memorial Building – Room #229  
Millis, MA 02054

Hybrid Meeting in Person and Zoom

In Attendance:

Jodie Garzon, Vice Chair—In Person  
Joyce Boiardi—In Person at 7:15PM  
Jim Borgman – Remote at 7:20PM  
John Loer—In Person  
Cathy MacInnes—In Person  
Sara Reyes – Remote  
John Steadman—In Person  
Peter Underhill—In Person

Jodie Garzon called the Finance Committee meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

John Steadman made a motion to appoint Peter Underhill as Clerk of the Finance Committee, Cathy MacInnes seconded.

Roll call vote: Jodie Garzon- aye, Joyce Boiardi- not present for the vote, Jim Borgman- not present for the vote, John Loer- aye, Cathy MacInnes- aye, Sara Reyes- aye, John Steadman- aye, Peter Underhill- aye.

Motion carries unanimously

Vice Chair Jodie Garzon deferred sub-committee assignments until the next meeting of the Finance Committee due to the absence of Chair Peter Berube.

**Chief Barrett of MFD presented the Fire Department budget**

There has been a 25% increase in call volume since last year.

The ambulance authorized at the last Town Meeting is ordered and is 200 days out

The fire truck authorized at the last Town Meeting is ordered and is 420 days out

Cathy MacInnes questioned the past agreements of the ambulance revolving fund and asked why funds from the ambulance were not used to purchase the latest ambulance.

Chief Barrett responded that the ambulance revolving fund currently pays the salary for 5 of the 16 full time employees at MFD. When 4 of the full-time employees are no longer covered under the current

grant in 2 years the revolving ambulance fund will pay the salary for 9 of the 16 full-time employees at MFD. Additionally, by the time the current ambulance is due replacement there will be more than enough funds to pay for the replacement. The numbers used to project future growth are conservative, 15-20% lower than current growth, and does not account for the revenue that will be generated by the second ambulance on order.

There are currently 16 full-time employees and 14 on call employees at MFD.

There is currently a feasibility study underway to investigate a regional dispatch enter with Medway, Medfield, Sherborn, Holliston, and Millis. This is in the beginning planning stages but has the potential to save a significant amount in the future.

#### **Chief Soffayer of MPD presented the Police Department budget**

MPD worked through the COVID-19 crisis and responded resiliently. The new officers hired were essential in maintaining services. 80% of MPD had COVID-19 2 times.

MPD has applied for and received \$124,048.72 in grants so far this year.

There have been 18,000 calls for service in 2021. Chief Soffayer is not asking for more officers at this time but compared to other towns of similar size and call rates there will be a need for more officers in the future.

There are 18 full time employees in MPD.

K-9 unit will be joining MPD in the Spring of 2022.

Chief Soffayer presented his police cruiser replacement plan and is asking for 2 police cruisers this year. This plan spreads out the cost of replacement and is based off experience and best practice, replacing the police cruisers every 7 years.

Chief Soffayer asked that the cruiser replacement plan be added to line-item budgets as they are a recurring capital request.

Vice Chair Jodie Garzon asked if there was a way to order electric or hybrid vehicle instead of gasoline powered cruisers. After several rounds of discussion, it was agreed that the technology isn't there for a duty cruiser yet, but this was a possibility for detective's vehicles and the vehicle dedicated to go to court. Vice Chair Jodie Garzon pointed out that there may be green credits or incentives to order electric or hybrid vehicles and it should be investigated.

Chief Soffayer presented that the dispatch radio is obsolete and no longer supported. It was installed in 2016 and phased out by the manufacturer in 2018. It currently operates on Windows 7.

Joyce Boiardi asked if there was another manufacturer besides Motorola, Chief Soffayer answered that they are the gold standard and used by all law enforcement for radios.

**Town Administrator Mike Guzinski was invited to address the Finance Committee**

Members of the Finance Committee not in attendance can pick their budget binders up at the Select Board office or at the next Finance Committee meeting.

All materials will be posted on the town website in 3-4 days

No candidates for Admin support, looking into Maureen Canesi to perform the duties.

Mask requirement in town buildings will be lifted effective February 28<sup>th</sup>. All unvaccinated individuals are asked to be respectful and mask when entering town buildings.

Vice Chair Jodie Garzon informed the Finance Committee that the next meeting will be on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, and will occur weekly after that.

Vice Chair Jodie Garzon also cautioned members on open meeting rules, keep all emails direct to Vice Chair Jodie Garzon and Chair Peter Berube. All Emails responding to all should be housekeeping only and not discuss anything else.

Joyce Boyardi made a motion to adjourn the meeting, John Steadman seconded.

Roll call vote: Jodie Garzon- aye, Joyce Boiardi- aye Jim Borgman- aye John Loer- aye, Cathy MacInnes- aye, Sara Reyes- aye, John Steadman- aye, Peter Underhill- aye.

Motion carries unanimously