

**TOWN OF HAMILTON  
FINANCE & ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
AUGUST 17, 2015**

The Hamilton Finance & Advisory Committee: Rick Sprenkle, Nick Tensen, David Wanger met at the Hamilton Public Safety Building at 7:10 p.m. on Monday, August 17, 2015. Finance Director Brian Connolly also present.

**Call to order**

Rick Sprenkle called the Hamilton Finance & Advisory Committee meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Minutes Approval – July 15, 2015**

David Wanger moved to approve the July 15, 2015 minutes. Nick Tensen seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

**Review capital improvement plan**

Discussion ensued about capital improvement plan, three year forecast planning tool and five year rolling plan noting that these are living documents. Brian Connolly will send out budget information for FY'14 through FY'19 and updated forecast for FY'16 to the Committee. Also addressed were the largest expected upcoming costs proposed including Town Hall renovation (as high as \$6 million), need to assess if there is public support for the project, if it should be approached piece meal, what did Wenham learn from renovating its town hall, digitizing of documents and how that action could impact plans, Town has submitted CPA project application for \$550,000 for renovation design, what would the cost benefit be for Hamilton if no action were taken to renovate, as well as Sagamore Hill project.

Also mentioned was best estimate of new growth (i.e., 3.5%) and how Hamilton is getting less state aid than cohort communities (i.e., Harvard). Nick Tensen will research source data related to this topic.

**Discuss high level budget parameters for FY 2017**

Discussion was on what could be presented at Town Meeting relative to proposed Town Hall renovation including cost of inaction, cost of an addition including elevator for ADA accessibility, bathrooms, conference room and office space. Also mentioned was if office space outside of Town Hall should be considered as part of facility use discussion (i.e., school administration building).

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Discussion was also on COLA for teachers at 2.5%, impact of wage and classification study, raises given to public safety personnel (i.e., Fire Department) to eliminate overtime costs, 2% COLA as the prevailing wage increase percentage, expected 12% increase in healthcare costs and if MIIA is aggressive with its rates, OPEB liability and auditor's recommendation that Town should work toward full funding (\$400,000 a year for six years) since state is not going to fund this liability and Hamilton could add \$50,000 a year versus the \$25,000 done annually to date, importance of communicating to public perhaps in writing prior to spring Town Meeting to ensure accurate budget information is dispersed, snow budget, level service budget, and DPW capacity.

### Review Connolly's Proposed Meeting Schedule

Discussion addressed interest in FinCom's meeting schedule correlating with fall Town Meeting warrant schedule (meeting date could be moved from October to November). Also mentioned was a shift in liaison roles with Wanger taking on police and fire, and relinquishing general government (Finance, Town manager, Town clerk), and keeping Council on Aging. New member John Kain will be joining the Committee at its next meeting when he will be assigned liaison role. Tensen and Wanger will be undertaking P.I.L.O.T. issue and investigating history of payments.

### Discuss new agenda items and schedule next meeting

The FinCom's next meeting is with the Selectmen on Saturday, August 22. Connolly will provide the Committee with meeting schedule so future meeting dates can be determined for rest of year. Sprenkle entertained a motion for the FinCom to adjourn at 9:05 p.m. Wanger so moved. Tensen seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Dooley, Minutes Secretary

ATTEST:



Rick Sprenkle, Chairman

15 Sept 2015