

Finance Committee Minutes 8/13/2018

Kelly, Durey, Roberts, Beaudoin, Jennings, Knezek in attendance

Chairman Gary Roberts called the meeting to order at 6:04pm with members Kelly, Durey, Roberts, Knezek, and Town Manager Jennings present.

FinCom welcomes it's new member, Jessica Knezek to the committee.

There was no public comment.

A motion was made and accepted to approve the July 16, 2018 minutes.

Kelly reported on the July 24 Pentucket Building Project Update meeting. At the meeting, project designers Dore and Whittier, presented four preferred options of ten total designs for the replacement of the regional school buildings. Two of the four, the "cube" and the "courtyard" designs, received the majority of attention and discussion during the presentation. Ultimately the "courtyard" design received approval with a preliminary cost estimate of \$151 million. This design is to be submitted to the MSBA.

Forbes updated the committee with communication with Selectman Kemper. Kemper wanted minutes regarding minutes regarding what would happen with used police car. The selectmen were under the impression that he used police car would be used to offset costs of the new cruisers, whereas now the police chief would like to keep the retired cruiser to keep for travel/training purposes. Forbes reviewed past meeting notes and did find that the Chief had stated that the intention was use sell the retired police cars. Jennings reported that since this issue was brought up, that the police Chief is not longer looking to keep the retired cruiser.

Jennings reported that there is a ongoing negotiation with a retiring/leaving employee, the past Town Finance Director, about compensation for unused vacation time. The town will likely as for this money to come from the Finance Committee reserve Fund.

Jennings then reviewed FY19 request for additional funds from Board of Health due to increased funds for recycling processing processing from C. Mello Co(see attached). The rational for the price increase for recycled waste processing is that China is no longer accepting the solid waste from the US and thus the C. Mello is having a hard time finding places to send the Town's recycled waste. Jennings has stated that we have an existing contract with C. Mello running

through 6/2020 with set pricing for waste processing, but it is unclear if the town is prepared to enforce this contract vs looking for a new vendor vs agreeing to pay increased processing fees for the Town's recycled waste. Kelly would like to see more information about comparative costs. Knezek would like to know what the requested \$50,000 would get the town? Forbes would like to know if these changes in processing fees would effect the non-recycled waste fees as well. The next meeting with the Board of Health to review this issue will be on 8/14/2018.



TOWN OF WEST NEWBURY
BOARD OF HEALTH

TOWN OFFICE BUILDING
381 MAIN STREET, WEST NEWBURY, MA 01945

PHONE 978-362-1100
FAX 978-362-1119

MEMORANDUM

RECEIVED

JUL 25 2018

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF WEST NEWBURY**

DATE: July 24, 2018

TO: The Board of Selectmen
Town Manager
Finance Committee

FROM: The Board of Health

RE: **FY19 Request for additional funds**

On July 17, 2018, The Board of Health met with Jason Mello of G. Mello Disposal to discuss the current predicament recycling services now face. Local recycling facilities have previously brought the recyclables to China for final processing. However, China has passed, and is currently enforcing a policy known as "China's National Sword" and this policy has effectively closed the door to the processing facilities, leaving very few facilities that will accept single-stream recycled materials. With nowhere to bring these materials, they have been piling up at facilities across America and resulted in sky-rocketing fees.

West Newbury is not alone in this crisis and the surrounding cities and towns are being forced to renegotiate their recycling contracts. We have recently learned that communities across the country have suspended recycling for the foreseeable future since there is no cost effective place that can process the collected materials.

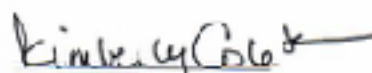
After a lengthy discussion with Mr. Mello, the Board reviewed information regarding recycling costs which are currently \$94.47 per ton. (As a point of reference, FY19 has a trash tonnage fee of \$58.) Mr. Mello reported that while he has endured the increased recycling processing costs for over a year, he felt he should present the issue to the Board, as he can no longer absorb these costs. We agreed that we will be forced to accept these price increases brought on by the overabundance of commingled comingles recycling collected in our communities.

We plan on educating our citizens about the materials that are no longer accepted in hopes to clean up our recycling by removing contamination from the single stream such as plastic bags and food wastes. This may help to lower the disposal costs of the recycling, and the processing facilities are actively looking to improve the processing and final recycling plants which will also help the fees.

In the meanwhile, we fear that the increased recycling costs will ultimately exceed the amount we included in the Town Budget. To that end, the Board would like to discuss the possibility of increasing Waste Line Item #510-5290, by approximately \$50,000 to cover costs for processing the Town's recycling.


Robert Jones, Chairman


Blake Seale, Member


Kimberly Cole, Member

