May 13, 2019

Finance and Warrant Committee Minutes

Kevin Preston, Susan Fay, Kevin Hughes, Dave Roberts, Cecilia Emery Butler, Marty Lindemann, Michelle Persson Reilly and John Heffernan present.

Mr. Preston called the meeting to order at 7:03. He gave the opportunity for public comment. There was none.

Mr. Kern presented the committee with the Unit B collective bargaining agreement. It contains a 2% cost of living increase, an increase to the uniform allowance, and a 3% increase for senior employee pagers.

Ms. Emery Butler asked if the town was moving towards direct deposit. Mr. Kern confirmed that they are. Ms. Emery Butler asked how the votes would be tracked if committee members voted differently on different contracts. Mr. Preston clarified that the vote would be on the article but dissenting members could make any comments they felt necessary.

Marty Lindemann motioned to accept the Unit B collective bargaining agreement. It was approved 8-0.

Mr. Heffernan motioned to approve the minutes from the April 22, 2019 meeting. Ms. Emery Butler seconded. They were approved 8-0.

Mr. Preston explained that he and Mr. Heffernan met with representatives of the Council on Aging to discuss meeting transportation needs if the Dedham bus line is defunded. Mr. Preston explained that the representatives of the COA feel they are not fully prepared to take over the transportation needs for seniors, and asked if it was possible to extend the bus contract by 6 months. In that discussion, they decided to speak to their respective committees on the idea of extending the contract for no longer than 6 months with the intent to solve the problem as soon as possible. There has been no official agreement on this plan as of yet.

Mr. Lindemann asked if the Council on Aging had the ridership data from the bus. Mr. Preston answered yes, and that it would soon be posted online.

Mr. Persson Reilly raised the point that there are people who rely on the bus, and she does not want to cut the bus until she is sure those people are accounted for.

Mr. Roberts asked how much they would budget. Mr. Preston answered $70,000.

Ms. Fay explained that she got the idea that the COA felt the responsibility for meeting transportation needs was dumped on them somewhat without warning.

Mr. Hughes stated that he feels the COA had at least some warning about the move away from using the public bus. Mr. Kern noted that they have been involved in discussions surrounding the bus, but he would not expect them to be able to meet these expanded needs on very short notice.

Ms. Fay asked if they would be providing any funding to the COA for this. Mr. Preston answered yes.

Mr. Roberts motioned to adjourn, Mr. Heffernan seconded. It was unanimously approved. Committee adjourned at 7:20.