

**Amherst Finance Committee Meeting**  
**May 2, 6:30 p.m.**  
**Professional Development Room, Amherst-Pelham Regional Middle School**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30p.m.

**Attendance:** Steve Braun, Bernie Kubiak, Tim Neale, Kay Moran (Chair), Janice Ratner, Marylou Theilman (Vice Chair) Absent: Anurag Sharma

**Others Attending:** Sonia Aldrich, Comptroller/ acting Co-Finance Director and Amherst Media

**News Affecting Budget:**

*(See FY16 Municipal Budget/Actual Reports for Quarter Ending March 31, 2016)*

Aldrich reviewed the General Fund Revenues/Expenditures and the Enterprise Funds as of March 31, 2016. The Town is 75% through the fiscal year and overall the actual revenues and expenditures are in good shape. The variances are related to timing issues and not the budgeted amounts.

**General Fund Revenues:**

The Cherry Hill Golf Course and Licenses/Permits are up at this point compared to the same time last year. Fines are down due to the courts reducing fines. Investment income is consistent with past years. Miscellaneous Non-Recurring are funds received from Amherst College and money from Umass, which is part of the signed Strategic Agreement with the Town to support the operating budget. The Medicare Part D reimbursement is not budgeted and falls into Free Cash which is later appropriated at Town Meeting into the OPEB Fund. The Penalties and Interest category is about \$10,000 lower. Property taxes are on pace to exceed a 98% collection rate this fiscal year. State Aid is on target with its distribution schedule.

**General Fund Expenditures:**

Through March 31, 2016, budgeted expenditures total 72.8% and include funds that have been encumbered, but not expended. Employee benefits are at 88.3% and include the one lump sum paid at the beginning of the fiscal year which reduces the Town's assessment by two percent (2%). The Fire Department is projected to have a \$30,000 deficit due to contractual costs and a breakdown of the HVAC unit at North Station with a cost replacement of \$10,000. This will be addressed in Article 5A at Town Meeting. There will be no need for a Reserve Fund Transfer in June for snow and ice removal. A \$10,000 deficit is projected in payroll due to changes in the part-time hourly employee benefits.

**Enterprise Funds:**

Water/Sewer, Solid Waste and Transportation funds are all within a reasonable range in terms of revenues and expenditures.

**Article 2, Transfer of funds—Unpaid Bills:**

There are no unpaid bills. Dismiss Article.

**Review Other Articles and Town Meeting Presentations:**

Article 26--General Bylaw--Percent for Art Bylaw. The percentage in Article 26 has been revised from 1% to .5%. Language also has been changed. After a discussion considering the new language, the Finance Committee decided not to change its vote which was to not recommend. Ratner will speak to the Article for the Finance Committee.

Article 40 General Petition—Umass Nontaxable Housing for Primary and Secondary Education Costs/Bylaw Amendment is not recommended. UMass presently includes funds for a variety of Town services through its Strategic Partnership Agreement and has agreed to explore costs and enrollment with the Town in future meetings. Moran will speak to the Article for the Finance Committee.

**Minutes of Previous Meetings:** None

**Next Meetings and Agendas:** None Scheduled

**Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of Meeting:** None

**Handout used at the Meeting:**

*FY16 Municipal Budget/Actual Reports for Quarter Ending March 31, 2016*

**Adjourned:**

The meeting adjourned at 7:00pm

Submitted by:

Marylou Theilman, Acting Clerk