

TOWN OF WINCHENDON



Finance Committee

Telephone (978)-297-5419

Presentation of the Proposed FY2020 Monty Tech Budget

Finance Committee Minutes

March 14th, 2019

Town Hall 2nd Floor Auditorium

109 Front Street, Winchendon, MA 01475

Present: Tom Kane: Chair, Christian Orobello: Vice-Chair, Dr. Maureen Ward, Charles C. Corts, Douglas Delay, Charles (CJ) Husselbee
Absent: Amy Salter, Brianna Roberts: Recording Secretary
Guests: Sheila Harrity, Superintendent-Director and Tammy Crockett, Business Manager

List of Documents Presented at Meeting:

- Notice of Meeting, March 14, 2019 Agenda
 - Presentation of the Proposed FY2020 Monty Tech Budget
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6:30PM: Chairman Thomas Kane called the Finance Committee meeting to order at 6:30PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Ms. Harrity formally welcomed Dr. Ward to the Monty Tech School Committee.

Monty Tech is the 2nd largest regional vocational school in Massachusetts. 2 years ago, the school added their 21st program in veterinary science. The graduation rate is at 99.7% with an almost exact 50/50 ratio between male and female students. Last spring, the school received a \$495,000 Capital Skills grant from the state to upgrade technical equipment. Monty Tech offers adult night classes with over 1600 adults currently attending. VCA is one of the largest Veterinary clinics across the country with over 750 hospitals. They partnered with Monty Tech to assist in the Veterinary program, as they want to hire students after graduating. Mount Wachusett now offers a Veterinary Technician Associates Degree program. Becker College has also partnered up with Monty Tech and will be able to transfer the earned 6 credits towards a Veterinary Doctorate Degree. The Monty Tech Building is over 50 years old and even though it is well taken care of; there are updates and repairs that need to be done.

Ms. Crockett stated the proposed FY20 budget totaled \$28,760,202, which is a 3.62% budget increase from the current year. The proposed budget is 1.1% over the required increase by the state. The state is funding more than half of the required Chapter 70, which was increased by \$545,000.

Mr. Kane asked if there were specific factors that would affect the foundation budget to increase.

Ms. Crockett replied there are a few increases including; the base rate per student, health insurance, and special education costs.

Mr. Delay questioned why Winchendon was showing a 6-7% increase even though there was a decrease in students. Ms. Crockett explained the state has a formula that calculates the required amount each town is required to pay. The amount required to spend per student for Monty Tech is standard throughout each town equaling about 16,000.

Mr. Orobello excused himself and left the meeting.

The Net school spending increased by \$793,000. Transportation is contracted out to four bus companies with a total of 30 buses, and had increased by \$43,180. The capital budget has stayed at a consistent \$250,000 for about 7 years. \$40,000 is set aside each year into the stabilization fund with a total of \$180,000 currently in the account. \$125,000 is proposed for a new school bus and vocational van. FY20 is the final year for the bond that went to the auditorium and gymnasium project back in 2000.

Winchendon had a foundation enrollment of 139 pupils, which is 9.43% in relation to the surrounding towns. The FY20 school attending number is the total number of children grades 1-12 who attend any school including home school. The number for Winchendon was 1,484. That number is then divided it by the total number of school attending children in all towns, which was 24,724. Winchendon represents 6% of that total number. After the school committee sets the freshman quota, each town receives the respected percentage in the number of freshman accepted, which would be 6% for Winchendon. There is also an increase in the budget due to preparing for hiring two new staff members. The technology and machinery need upgrades, which also increased the budget.

Ms. Crockett and Ms. Harrity finished their presentation and thanked the board for their time. The board members thanked them for their well-organized and thorough presentation.

The next finance meeting will be Thursday March 21st at 6:00 to meet with the Middle and High School Principle.

Member Comments: None

Public Comments: None

Dr. Ward motioned to adjourn. Mr. Corts seconded. The Finance Committee unanimously voted aye.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33PM

Respectfully submitted,

Brianna Roberts
Finance Committee Recording Secretary