

TOWN OF WINCHENDON
FINANCE COMMITTEE REGULAR AND JOINT MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY March 23, 2017 7:00 P.M.
Town Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room
109 Front Street, Winchendon, Mass.

Present:

Thomas Kane, Chairman
Christian Orobello, Vice Chairman
Dr. Maureen Ward, Member
James Robichaud, Member
Tonya Dokulil, Member
Charles Corts, Member

Debra Dennis, Recording Secretary

Absent: Robert Guenther

List of Documents Presented at Meeting:

- Monty Tech Tentative 2017-2018 Budget
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The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kane at 7:04 p.m. with the *Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America*.

Monty Tech Tentative 2017-2018 Budget Presentation-Chairman Kane commented they are here tonight to hear the presentation of the Monty Tech. The tentative budget was received a few weeks ago and distributed to the other members. Mr. Burton Gould the town representative for Monty Tech came forward with the Monty Tech Business Manager Tammy Crockett and the Director of Monty Tech Dr. Sheila Haroday.

Mr. Gould said Monty Tech is part of a district of sixteen towns and two cities. Winchendon represents 10% of Monty Tech. Monty Tech has currently 165 students from Winchendon. Monty Tech currently has a waiting list of one hundred students. Vocational education has different rules and regulations.

Dr. Sheila Haroday noted that Monty Tech will be opening up a Veterinarian Tech program next fall. The building should be complete around January 2018. Monty Tech received \$555,000 in grants.

Ms. Crockett said the FY17 budget was finalized. The fourth quarter assessment is \$7,016.00 less for the Town of Winchendon. They will be receiving these funds back. She proceeded to go over the highlights of the budget. She said the foundation budget are increased by an inflation factor of 1.11% and there is an increase to the assessment of 2.1%. The staff has been decreased by one. They level funded supplies and materials. She discussed going out to bid for transportation which will save \$20,000 in FY18. There is an increase in Health Insurance of \$200,000. She said they are self-funded. The budget is based off of House 1. The Town of Winchendon represents .70% of the Monty Tech operating percentages and .06% of the capital percentages. The cost per pupil for FY18 is \$5,718.

Chairman Kane said the overall assessment has increased. The Town of Winchendon has the second largest enrollment figures. The kids should have the opportunity to get educated where they want. More kids go to Monty Tech which impacts our town's budget. There is no easy solution. Dr. Haroday said three towns don't fill their quotas. She said she went to those towns and did some recruiting. If those slots are filled it would alleviate the burden. Dr. Ward said if there wasn't a need, programs wouldn't be full.

Mr. Gould invited the Finance Committee members to go to Monty Tech for a tour. He said he would meet them there.

Dr. Ward asked about the summary codes decrease in technologies. Ms. Crockett said they implemented a one to one initiative and they lease Chrome books. They are also going to be using electronic textbooks. Chairman Kane questioned the heating costs and how they have dropped. Ms. Crockett said they did a twelve million dollar contract lease. They replaced the boiler system and replaced the roof. James Robichaud asked if the Veterinarian Clinic would be self-sustaining. Ms. Crockett said eventually it will go into the budget. Christian Orobello questioned why the debt services principals is going up and the interest if going down. Ms. Crockett said they are two years away from paying off a loan and they are paying more towards the principal now. Chairman Kane thanked the Monty Tech representatives for attending the meeting and presenting the budget.

Member Comments-Chairman Kane said he spoke with Mr. Haddad the School Superintendent about the schedule for the school department budget presentation. He's concerned the School Committee hasn't voted the budget. Chairman Kane said he spoke to him about meeting jointly with the School Committee to hear the budget presentation. He told members he will let them know about meeting jointly next Thursday. He said he will get copies of the school budget to the members. Christian Orobello said the town government sees us as a help in the process. He said he wants the School Committee to feel that way also.

Public Comments-None

Adjournment-A motion was made by Dr. Maureen Ward to adjourn the meeting; Tonya Dokulil seconded.
KANE(Y) OROBELLO(Y) WARD(Y) ROBICHAUD(Y) DOKULIL(Y) CORTS(Y)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted;

Debra A. Dennis
Recording Secretary

Minutes Approved_____