

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS --- SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 6, 2017

Chairman Cross called the Special Meeting to order at 7:00pm.

PRESENT: Commissioners Peter Cross, Laura Cronin, Dennis Sullivan, Victor Skende and Chief Dean Melanson.

ABSENT: Commissioner Demetrius Atsalis

I OPEN SESSION

Chairman Cross presented the proposed budget for FY 2018 as prepared by the Clerk/Treasurer and the Chief. Sullivan noted that the ambulance revenue funds were down appreciably and asked if there was any explanation for the short fall. Chief said that runs were down this past year. Last the revenues were \$1.7 million which was applied to reduce the budget. At this time, the projection is that there may be only \$1 million available. Chief said runs were down 6% this year.

There has been 2% added to in the salary account in this budget. That 2% is only a place holder added to the budget to avoid any need for a Special Meeting of the District when a contract has been agreed upon with the Union. Sullivan noted that there is no fat in the budget. Most of the budget is contractual and or mandated.

Chief informed the Commission that there is discussion at the State level to limit ambulance reimbursement to the Medicare/Medicaid rate regardless of Insurance. Currently we bill at 150% of the Medicare/Medicaid rate for the ambulance which is the average of the top 50 clients of COMSTAR. If the change being discussed goes into effect, we could lose \$490,000.

The Department of Revenue has certified that we currently have approximately \$1.3 as free cash. Mass Municipal Association recommends that municipalities retain 3 to 5 percent as free cash. We do have the option of using a portion of the free cash to offset the budget. This could be done by amendment at the Annual Meeting.

Sullivan moved that we accept the Budget for FY 2018 as printed. Cronin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sullivan moved that the Special meeting be adjourned and moved that the Board of Commissioners go into Executive Session under M.G.L. c.30A §21(a) (30) to discuss strategy with respect to negotiating collective bargaining agreement with Firefighters Union 2172 and not to reconvene in Open Session.

Roll Call Vote:	Cross	Yes
	Cronin	Yes
	Sullivan	Yes
	Skende	Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Victor Skende
Clerk