

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
December 19, 2016

1. Chairman Brasco called the meeting to order at 8:30 pm.
2. Chairman Brasco requested that a roll call be taken to record the attendance for the meeting. The Clerk called the roll – all Committee members except Councillor Vizard (due to his son's health issue) were present.
3. Councillor Giordano moved that that the minutes of the meeting November 21, 2016 be accepted. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the minutes were accepted.
4. Councillor Giordano moved that that the minutes of the meeting December 5, 2016 be accepted. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the minutes were accepted.
6. A request was received from the Mayor to accept a donation in the amount of \$200 from Connors & Connors, LLC for Christmas lights. Councillor Giordano moved to accept the gift. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the gift was accepted and that a thank you note is sent to the donor.
7. A request was received from the Mayor to approve the attached transfer requests from the School Committee to fund the bid award of \$20,900 for the design services of the MacArthur School playground. The Auditor explained the School Committee had taken two separate votes (1) to approve the transfer of \$513,633.16 from various School project accounts to a School general account and (2) to approve the transfer of \$20,900.00 from a School general account to an account for the MacArthur School playground design services. Councillors McMenimen and Romard questioned if the transfer of \$513,633.16 was properly requested. The Auditor explained the Mayor's letter used the plural of the word "requests" and the transfer of \$513,633.16 needed to be approved first to effectuate the second transfer of \$20,900.00. In addition, the Mayor attached the votes and requests of the School Committee to her request letter. Councillor McMenimen stated the Mayor should provide a letter that specifically requests the transfer of \$513,633.16 and Councillor Romard moved to table the transfer request of \$20,900.00 pending receipt of letter to request the transfer of \$513,633.16. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the transfer request of \$20,900.00 was tabled.
8. A resolution concerning a communication plan to notify residents of the change in residential tax exemption was submitted by Councillor Romard. Councillor Romard explained that he wanted to ensure there is a formal notification process to inform

residents of changes that impacts their property tax bill. Councillor Romard moved to request the Assessor be invited to the next meeting of the Finance Committee to discuss his communication plan. On the motion, Councillors Giordano and McMenimen questioned the need and what more information could the Assessor add to his previous presentation at the public hearing several weeks ago. Councillor Romard stated it was important that the residents understand the changes in their property tax bill and to promote transparency. Councillor Giordano moved the question and it was approved. On a roll call vote of one in favor (Romard) and two opposed (Giordano, McMenimen) the request to have the Assessor attend the next Finance Committee meeting did not pass. Councillor Romard move to file the resolution. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the resolution was filed.

9. Councillor McMenimen requested that the Clerk of the Finance Committee resend her resolution on the School Foundation Budget to all Finance Committee members.
10. A motion to adjourn by Councillor Giordano was approved by a voice vote and Chairman Brasco declared the Committee adjourned – 8:55pm.

Paul G. Centofanti – Clerk to the Finance Committee