

MARBLEHEAD LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OBSERVER CORP REPORT FORM

League Observer: Katharine Redmond

Finance Committee: 3/2/2020

Members in Attendance: Ben Berman, Emily Belfbecker, Kevin Broderick, Zur Muhlen, and Alec Goolsby. Yeimi Colon, Jason Silva, and Alison Nieto were also in attendance.

Meeting posted in advance in handicapped accessible location

Minutes: Minutes from the January 27, 2020 meeting were voted on and approved.

Liaison Meetings: Finance Committee members formed smaller liaison groups to work with department heads, managers, administrators, and elected officials to review their respective budgets with the goal of limiting increases to contractual obligations for a “level service” budget. Results of the following liaison meetings were presented as follows:

- **Town Clerk/Election and Registration:** It is unclear if early voting in 2020 will put pressure on the election budget. The FY 21 budget request of \$207,856 was approved.
- **Cemetery:** Plot prices and fees have remained level since 2018. The average single grave lot cost is \$1,500, and 242 lots from all locations are available. This is estimated to be 5 years worth of space. A FY 21 budget request of \$417,055 was approved.
- **Retirement:** The Board added new members to the retirement rolls. They also limited part-time school employees from joining until they have been in service for approximately 2 years. In order to fully fund its retirement account, The Town is required by the Public Employees Retirement Administration Commission (PERAC) to pay an increased annual assessment of 8% until 2038. The FY 21 budget request of \$3,513,768 was approved.
- **Library:** The FY 21 “level service” budget request of \$1,188,856 was approved. (This does not include funding for the “Abbott Public Library Renovation Campaign.”)
- **Planning Board:** The FY 21 budget request of \$1,675 was approved.
- **Finance Committee:** The FY 21 budget request of \$149,904 was approved.
- **Assessors:** The FY 21 budget request of \$293,627 was approved.

Upcoming Meetings:

- **March 30:** Parks and Recreation, Selectmen, and Schools. Health and Waste, and Water and Sewer are also tentatively scheduled to be on the agenda for March 30.
- **April 6:** Warrant Hearing