

## **Finance Committee Meeting Minutes Thursday, October 6, 2022**

**Present:** (Z – zoom)

**Finance Committee**

Roll Call 11 in attendance

Dennis Crowley (Chair)

Douglas Shea (Vice Chair)

Josette Burke (Clerk)

Audrey Grace

Kathleen Foley Greulich

Steve Hendricks

Leigh Ann Luetzen (Z)

Adrienne Rogers

Mark Trudell (Z)

Lisa Van der Linden

Scott Wassel

**Absent:** Brian Bain, Jean Kenney, Mark Sullivan, Lawrence Pitman

**Additional attendees:**

Jim Johnson, Jodi Cuneo, Annmarie Raymond, Lisa Sinkus, Rick Mattson, Liz Gaffey, Bill Hamilton, Scott Gustafson, Nancy Gallivan, Bridget Gough, Mike Friscia, Timothy Bailey

Meeting minutes of recorded meetings now include time stamps from the video for viewing actual content. The video can be found at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HRQ-8H\\_KfsE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HRQ-8H_KfsE)

*\*Approval of minutes is based off of the printed word and not the video\**

The meeting was called to order by Dennis Crowley at 7:00pm.

Attendance was taken by Dennis Crowley. Jim Johnson introduced the Town's new Assistant Town Accountant, Annmarie Raymond.

**Finance Committee Public Hearing**

**(2:28) Motion** by Josette Burke and seconded by Kathleen Foley Greulich to open the Public Hearing. The Motion passed 11-0-0.

There were no questions or comments from the general public. Jim Johnson stated that the warrant this year is pretty standard and gave a brief overview of the 15 Articles.

**(5:40) Motion** by Josette Burke and seconded by Mark Trudell to close the Public Hearing. The Motion passed 11-0-0.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes (6:35)**

The Committee suggested several minor edits and corrections to the minutes for 8/29, 9/1, and 9/8.

**(8:08) Motion** by Josette Burke and seconded by Scott Wassel to approve the 8/29 Minutes as amended. The Motion passed 11-0-0.

**(11:33) Motion** by Douglas Shea and seconded by Adrienne Rogers to approve the 9/1 Minutes as amended. The Motion passed 9-0-2. (Mark Trudell and Steve Hendricks abstained).

**(14:14) Motion** by Audrey Grace and seconded by Adrienne Rogers to approve the 9/8 Minutes as amended. The Motion passed 9-0-2. (Mark Trudell and Kathleen Foley Greulich abstained).

#### **Discussion of Possible Upcoming Meetings (15:20)**

Jim Johnson stated that he is considering scheduling some extra Finance Committee meetings in November with Department Heads to discuss budget needs and requests for the upcoming cycle. Tentative dates for the first of those meetings would be the 14<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of November.

Kathleen Foley Greulich restated her opinion that the Finance Committee should take a larger role in shaping the budget in the future and asked to discuss that in the upcoming November meetings. Lisa Van der Linden suggested also meeting with the Master Plan Committee to become more aware of future potential projects and capital expenses. She also expressed interest in looking at past data to see how the annual budget has grown in relation to Walpole's population growth. Scott Wassel proposed also comparing Walpole's data to similar towns in the area.

Dennis Crowley suggested scheduling an additional meeting to present an opportunity for each member to respectfully share their opinions and philosophies on how the Committee should act. Jim Johnson stated that he would appreciate the opportunity to go into more depth explaining to the Finance Committee how the budget is put together.

Leigh Ann Luetzen asked if it would be possible to see the un-finalized budget earlier in the year so that the Committee has more time to study and provide input. Jim Johnson stated that he is often waiting on numbers to come close to the deadline, so any preliminary budget allocations may change dramatically last minute.

#### **Adjournment (43:30)**

**Motion** by Mark Trudell and seconded Leigh Ann Luetzen to adjourn.  
The motion passed 11-0-0.

The Finance Committee adjourned at 7:45pm.