

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes Thursday, March 10, 2022

Present:

Finance Committee

Roll Call 12 in attendance:

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| Mark Trudell | Susan Lawson |
| Dennis Crowley | Kathleen Foley Greulich |
| Josette Burke | Jean Kenney |
| Allyson Hamilton | Douglas Shea |
| Brian Bain | Mark Sullivan |
| Steve Hendricks | Lisa Van der Linden |

Absent: Jeff Fisher, Lucy Romanowiz, Lawrence Pitman

Additional attendees:

Jim Johnson, Patrick Shield, Dan Bruce, Kevin Feely, Mike McGrath, Julie Lowre

The meeting was called to order by Mark Trudell at 7:00pm.

Discussion and Vote on Town Meeting Articles 2, 3, 5, and 16

Article 16 – Town Moderator Dan Bruce presented Article 16, a petition to dissolve the Personnel Board and transfer its responsibilities to the Select Board. He stated that he polled the Massachusetts Moderators' Association and found that 9 of the 22 responding towns have no Personnel Board at all and 3 have an inactive Personnel Boards. Mark Sullivan questioned whether eliminating the Personnel Board would create an imbalance of power with the Town's government, and Dan Bruce stated that for all Personnel Board matters there is still oversight from multiple boards, committees, employees, and Town Meeting voters. Town Counsel Kevin Feely stated that historically Personnel Boards were created to act as a check on Select Boards, but this was before Town Administrators/Managers existed, and they are no longer as necessary. Personnel Board Chair Mike McGrath warned that this Article would give too much power to the Select Board, who may have less specific expertise in HR and labor laws. Town Administrator Jim Johnson stated that in the past the Personnel Board has been a political roadblock that has prevented certain changes from taking place.

Mark Trudell opted to postpone voting on Article 16 to a later date.

Article 2 – Personnel Bylaw Changes: None Recommended

Motion by Susan Lawson and seconded by Kathleen Foley Greulich for **no action on Article 2.**

The motion passed 12-0-0.

Article 3 – FY 2023 Salary and Hourly Compensation Schedule

Motion by Dennis Crowley and seconded by Jean Kenney for **favorable action on Article 3.**

The motion passed 9-2-1 (Mark Trudell and Douglas Shea opposed, Steve Hendricks abstained).

Article 5 – FY 2023 Budget

Jim Johnson recommended a motion to take the excess funds from Tri Country and Norfolk County (\$41,500) and transfer them into Capital Stabilization (currently recommended at \$300,000). He stated that future capital projects will be expensive, and having more money in Capital Stabilization will be beneficial for the budget.

Motion by Susan Lawson and seconded by Dennis Crowley to transfer **\$41,500** from Tri County / Norfolk County to Capital Stabilization.
The motion passed 12-0-0.

The total budget for FY 2023 is **\$108,547,280** from the following sources:

Taxation / State Funding: **\$105,417,187**

Ambulance Fund: **\$975,000**

Sale of Cemetery Lots: **\$15,000**

Water Enterprise Fund: **\$1,318,091**

Sewer Enterprise Fund: **\$449,002**

Overlay: **\$400,000**

Motion by Dennis Crowley and seconded by Susan Lawson to **approve the FY 2023 Budget in the amount of \$108,547,280.**

The motion passed 12-0-0.

Adjournment

Motion by Josette Burke and seconded Dennis Crowley to adjourn.

The motion passed 12-0-0.

The Finance Committee adjourned at 8:30pm.