

**Finance Committee Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
Monday, April 11, 2022, at 5:30 pm  
Bellingham Municipal Center  
Arcand Meeting Room**

Finance Committee Members Present: J. Allam (Chairman), J. Collamati (Vice-Chairman), J. Flannery, K. Keppler

Finance Committee Members Absent: A. Thorell, J. Kuzmeskas

Meeting Commenced: J. Allam called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm

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Approval of Minutes from the April 4, 2022, Finance Committee Meeting were tabled until the next meeting – tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>

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**Article 17 – Hartford Avenue Zoning Change** - Petitioners for Article 17 were not present for tonight's meeting and will be having a Public Hearing for this Article with the Planning Board on Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. The Finance Committee did not make any recommendations on this Article tonight and will be waiting until after the Public Hearing with the Planning Board is completed on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

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**Article 18 – Marijuana Uses Overlay District** – Petitioner, John Fresolo, was present to answer any questions the Committee Members had about this Article. This Article is to see if the Town will allow a vote at Town Meeting to Amend Chapter 240 of the Town's By-Laws by adding a new Article entitled "Marijuana Uses Overlay District". The District shall be limited to the parcels of land at the Intersection of Route 140 and William Way.

The Finance Committee did not make any recommendations on this Article tonight and would like to wait until after the Public Hearing is done with the Planning Board on April 28<sup>th</sup> before making their recommendations. If presented at Town Meeting, a 2/3 vote would be needed in order to pass.

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**Public Hearing:** Mr. Marano, Mr. Reed, Ms. Rebelo, and some of the School Committee members were present to discuss their FY23 Department Budget as listed below:

A package with Budget specifics was given to all Committee Members for review before the meeting started.

Mr. Marano gave a brief summary on the FY23 proposed operating budget for Bellingham Public Schools. The total budget for both the School Department and associated transposition needs of \$31,917,893 represents a \$957,019 (8.9%) increase over FY22.

Ms. Rebelo presented information showing that the FY23 Transportation Department proposed budget includes Upgraded routing software, In-District transportation, Homeless and Foster Care Transportation, Parent Mileage Reimbursement, Out-of-District mix of contracted and self-operated van transportation, transportation supplies, van driver and monitor salaries and the Purchase of 3 additional vans. The increase of \$70,600 from FY22 was from the elimination of one bus, eight Special Education van runs, one McKinney-Vento van run and for Pre-School mid-day runs, as with the use of the Departments new self-operated vans. The Department is trying to locate and purchase two additional vans before the end of FY22 under the School Committee original approval in the Fall of 2021.

J. Flannery made a motion to recommend \$28,765,338 for Account 300 – School Department, to be funded from Taxation. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 3/0. J. Collamati abstained from the motion at this time.

J. Collamati made a motion to recommend \$1,080,034 for BVT to be funded through Taxation. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 4/0.

J. Flannery made a motion to recommend \$3,152,555 for Account 303 – School Transportation, to be funded from Taxation. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 3/1.

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Committee Members moved to the downstairs meeting room at 6:48 pm, as the Selectboard Meeting needed the Arcand Room for 7:00 pm. Meeting reconvened at 6:54 pm.

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Mike Garofano, representing the School Department and Karen Jasinski-Dutil, representing Town Municipal Departments presented Committee Members with informational sheets regarding the current level of Cyber-Security within their Departments.

Mr. Garofano informed Committee Members that the School District has taken numerous steps to ensure the network and its resources are as secure as possible from cyber-attacks. The District received a Grant from the State to participate in a year-long “Cyber Awareness” project that they are currently implementing.

Ms. Jasinski-Dutil also informed Committee Members that the Municipal Users have just completed the State sponsored awareness training program that was done to improve overall cyber-security through trainings, evaluations, tests, and threat simulations. Ms. Jasinski-Dutil also informed Committee Members about the current Endpoint Protection Software, Firewalls, Data Storage, Email Protection and Security Patching.

Both Mr. Garofano and Ms. Jasinski-Dutil were thanked for coming in tonight to discuss these items with Committee Members.

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**Public Hearing:** DPW Director, Don DiMartino and Assistant Director, Jesse Riedle were present to discuss the Departments FY23 Budgets.

Mr. DiMartino gave a brief summary on each of the of the Department Accounts listed below for FY23 Operating Expenses and Salaries.

J. Flannery made a motion to recommend the following Accounts as presented: Highway in the amount of \$1,246,863 from Taxation, Cemetery in the amount of \$9,001 from Taxation, Gas in the amount of \$197,900 from Taxation and Snow in the amount of \$260,000 from Taxation. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 4/0.

J. Flannery made a motion to recommend:

**Article 3 – Water Enterprise** – In the amount of \$3,635,984 from Water Enterprise Fund Receipts,

**Article 4 – Sewer Enterprise** – In the amount of \$1,631,374 from Sewer Enterprise Fund Receipts,

**Article 5 – Stormwater Enterprise** – In the amount of \$758,016 from Stormwater Enterprise Fund Receipts. K. Keppler seconded. Articles 3, 4 and 5 are Recommended 4/0.

**Article 21 –Acceptance of Roger Street as a Public Way** – Mr. DiMartino presented members with a map of Roger Street that is currently a “Paper Street” and is moving forward with becoming a Public Way. Committee Members did not make a recommendation for this Article tonight and will be waiting until this Article has been presented at the Planning Boards Public Hearing, scheduled for April 28, 2022.

**Article 22 –Stallbrook Easement Acquisition** – Mr. DiMartino let Finance Committee Members know that this Article will be “passed over” at Town Meeting.

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**Public Hearing:** J. Flannery made a motion to recommend the published IRS Mileage Reimbursement Rate of 58.5 center per mile for FY23. J. Collamati seconded. Recommended 4/0.

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**Public Hearing:** Review Town Warrant and discuss the Articles listed below:

**Article 1 – Operating Expenses and Salaries** – Article 1 has been approved and recommended by multiple Public Hearings that the Finance Committee has held over the past two months.

**Article 10 – Amend FY2022 Annual Operating Budget** – Will be discussed at the next Finance Committee Meeting

**Article 11 – Amend FY22 Trash Enterprise Budget** – Committee Members were informed that Article 11 on the Town Warrant will be “passed over” at Town Meeting.

**Article 12 – Amend FY2022 Water Enterprise Budget** – Will be discussed at the next Finance Committee Meeting

**Article 13 – Amend FY2022 Sewer Enterprise Budget** – Will be discussed at the next Finance Committee Meeting

**Article 14 – Amend FY2022 Stormwater Enterprise Budget** – Will be discussed at the next Finance Committee Meeting

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**Public Hearing:** Ms. MacKinnon was present to answer any additional Budget questions and Reserve Fund Requests. Committee Members didn’t have any additional questions at this time and will have another meeting to address any questions that may come up in the meantime.

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New Business, Emails, Correspondence, Bills:

The next Finance Committee Meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 4, 2022, at 5:30 pm, in the Arcand Meeting Room.

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J. Flannery made a motion to adjourn at 7:58 pm. Seconded by J. Collamati. Recommended 4/0.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Tina M. Griffin*  
Tina M. Griffin