

**Finance Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 12, 2021 at 5:30 pm
Bellingham Municipal Center – Arcand Meeting Room**

1. Finance Committee Members Present: J. Allam, K. Keppler, J. Flannery, A. Thorell, J. Kuzmeskas
2. Finance Committee Members Absent: J. Collamati
3. Meeting Commenced: J. Allam called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.
4. Approval of Minutes from the March 22, 2021 Finance Committee meeting were tabled until the next Finance Committee meeting.
5. **Public Hearing – 5:30 pm:** Mr. Marano, Mr. Reed and some of the School Committee members were present to discuss their FY22 Department Budget as listed below:

Mr. Marano gave a brief summary on the current budget and positions that have been added to the Schools for the Arts program and different classes over the past year. Mr. Marano and the School Department technology manager explained the School IT security infrastructure is current and necessary software upgrades and security improvement measures are in place, the budget includes funding for further security upgrades in the short term as part of a continuous and focused security effort.

J. Flannery made a motion to recommend \$27,878,917 for Account 300 – School Department, to be funded from Taxation and other available sources. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 5/0.

J. Kuzmeskas made a motion to recommend \$3,081,955 for Account 303 – School Transportation, to be funded through Taxation and other available sources. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 5/0.

6. **Public Hearing – 5:45 pm:** DPW Director, Mr. DiMartino was present to discuss the various Warrant Articles listed below:

Article 9 – Highway Construction

Mr. DiMartino explained that Article 9 pertains to the use of Chapter 90 Funds for the construction, reconstruction and improvements of Town roads.

K. Keppler made a motion to recommend Article 9 on the Town Warrant. J. Flannery seconded. Recommended 5/0.

Article 20 – Pine Acres Subdivision Easements

A. Thorell made a motion to Recommend Article 20 on the Town Warrant, with no cost to the Town. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 5/0.

Article 21 – Harpin Street – SNETT Access Land Grant, Parking and Driveway Easement

J. Flannery made a motion to recommend Article 21 on the Town Warrant, with no cost to the Town. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 5/0.

Article 22 – Lease of Town Land

K. Keppler made a motion to recommend Article 22 on the Town Warrant, with no cost to the Town. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 5/0.

Article 23 – Contract for Composting Services

J. Flannery made a motion to recommend Article 23 on the Town Warrant, with no cost to the Town.
K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 5/0.

Mr. DiMartino let Committee Members know that the following four Articles will most likely be “passed over” at Town Meeting:

Article 11 – Amend FY2021 Trash Enterprise Budget

Article 12 – Amend FY2021 Water Enterprise Budget

Article 13 – Amend FY2021 Sewer Enterprise Budget

Article 14 – Amend FY2021 Stormwater Enterprise Budget

7. Public Hearing – 6:00 pm: Article 17 – Connor Lane Street Acceptance

Chris Nation, Petitioner for Article 17 was present to answer any questions the Committee had regarding this Article.

Mr. Kupfer let Committee members know that the Planning Board is in favor of this Article 5/0.

K. Keppler made a motion to recommend Article 17. J. Flannery seconded. Recommended 5/0.

8. Public Hearing: Ms. MacKinnon was present to discuss remaining FY22 Accounts for Article 1 on the Town Warrant, as presented below:

Account 750 – Debt Service

K. Keppler made a motion to recommend \$4,503,615 to Debt Service from the Funding Source of Taxation and other available sources A. Thorell seconded. Recommended 5/0.

Account 992 – Transfer to Group Insurance Trust Fund

Balance in this account as of the end of last year is \$2,395,000.

K. Keppler made a motion to recommend \$7,100,000 to the Group Insurance Trust from the Funding Source of Taxation and other available sources. A. Thorell seconded. Recommended 5/0.

9. Public Hearing: Mr. Fraine, Ms. MacKinnon and Mr. Kupfer were present to discuss the following Articles of the Town Warrant:

Article 18 – Amendment of Zoning Bylaw

Mr. Kupfer gave a brief summary on the revisions and language changes that are being requested in this Article.

K. Keppler made a motion to recommend Article 18 of the Town Warrant. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 5/0.

Article 24 – Amendment of Town Bylaw 71-4

Ms. MacKinnon explained that the purpose of this Amendment is to remove the restriction for the frequency that the Town Collector can produce a delinquency list.

K. Keppler made a motion to recommend Article 24 of the Town Warrant. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 5/0.

Article 25 – Adopt MGL. Ch. 44 s 70, Payment for Municipal Programs

Ms. MacKinnon let Committee members know that this Article would allow the Town to enter into an agreement with a vendor in which their payment for services would be withheld from the proceeds they recover from their collections.

J. Kuzmeskas made a motion to recommend Article 25 of the Town Warrant. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 5/0.

Article 26 – Transfer to Stabilization Fund

K. Keppler made a motion to recommend the transfer of \$100,000 from Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund. J. Flannery seconded. Recommended 5/0.

Article 27 – Unpaid Bills

Ms. MacKinnon presented a copy of the Unpaid Bill from Kelley & Ryan Associates to Committee Members for review.

J. Flannery made a motion to pay \$17.50 from Free Cash to Kelley & Ryan Associates. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 5/0.

Article 6 – Conveyances and Easements

J. Flannery made a motion to recommend Article 6 of the Town Warrant. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 5/0.

Article 7 – Purchase of Surplus Equipment

K. Keppler made a motion to recommend Article 7 of the Town Warrant. J. Flannery seconded. Recommended 5/0.

Article 8 – Town Property Auction

K. Keppler made a motion to recommend Article 8 of the Town Warrant. J. Flannery seconded. Recommended 5/0.

10. New Business, Emails, Correspondence, Bills:

The next Finance Committee Meeting will take place on Monday, May 3, 2021 at 5:30 pm. This meeting will be conducted in-person for Finance Committee members with a Zoom option and for the Public to attend via Zoom only.

K. Keppler made a motion to adjourn at 6:45 pm. Seconded by J. Flannery. Recommended 5/0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tina M. Griffin
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