

**Finance Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 4, 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, J. Kuzmeskas

Finance Committee Members Absent: A. Thorell

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

K. Keppler made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 7, 2022, Finance Committee Meeting, as submitted. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 5/0

J. Kuzmeskas made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 21, 2022, Finance Committee Meeting, as submitted. J. Collamati seconded. Recommended 4/0. K. Keppler abstained from this motion.

Public Hearing: Chief Daigle and Lieutenant Russell from the Police Department were present to discuss their Capital Requests as follows:

The Police Department is requesting a new vehicle to replace a 2017 Ford Police Utility Vehicle with a 2022 Ford Police Utility – Hybrid. The vehicle's MDT (Mobile Data Terminal) will also be replaced by a Getac mobile computer with mount and keyboard. This vehicle will be a replacement for Utility Vehicle Number 411 that is currently in use and will be handed down to another Town Department.

The Police Department is requesting a Utility Vehicle at this time due to a supply chain issue and long wait times for new vehicles.

K. Keppler made a motion to recommend the purchase of a Utility Vehicle in the amount of \$64,353 From Free Cash to replace Vehicle Number 411. J. Collamati seconded. Recommended 5/0.

Public Hearing: Chief Gentile and Deputy Milot from the Fire Department were present to discuss their Capital Requests as follows:

The Fire Department is requesting a new vehicle to replace the 2016 International Ambulance with a 2022 Dodge Ram Ambulance. The amount for the vehicle is \$398,231 and this total includes the new Stryker Power Load Cot and C-Med radios that go with this vehicle. This pricing also includes a trade-in credit of \$30,000 for the 2016 Ambulance.

Deputy Milot told Committee members that the current wait time to order a new Ambulance is in excess of a year. The Department has a chance to purchase this vehicle as it was already made and is currently available for purchase.

J. Collamati made a motion to recommend the purchase of a 2022 Dodge Ram 5500 Ambulance in the amount of \$398,231 from Free Cash to replace Ambulance A-1. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 5/0.

The Fire Department is requesting work to be done to Headquarters to help with some of the current issues. The work being requested is for painting inside the apparatus bay, exterior sealing of the building, painting of the apparatus floor, as well as painting and sealing of the metal roof to help with leaks. The current quote received for this project is \$57,890 but the Department is working to get additional quotes.

J. Flannery made a motion to recommend the amount of \$57,890 from Free Cash for the for updates and repairs to the Fire Department Headquarters. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 5/0.

Public Hearing: Mr. Marano, School Superintendent and Mr. Reed as well as School Committee members were present to discuss the School Departments Capital Requests, as follows:

The School Department submitted information to request the purchase and upgrade of a Radio Repeater System, in the amount of \$65,000. The current system is very outdated and not reliable. This pricing includes the replacement of existing radio repeater and antenna located at the South Main Street water tower, reprogramming of 28 existing radios, purchase of 8 radios, batteries, and accessories.

J. Flannery made a motion to recommend the purchase and upgrade of current Radio Repeater System in the amount of \$65,000 from Free Cash. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 5/0.

The Department is requesting a Lighting Upgrade at the High School. In the Fall of 2020, the lighting system started failing. In the Fall of 2021, a replacement of the dimmer control backstage made it so the lights could safely be turned on and off but only basic functions were restored. The School Department is requesting \$125,000 to fix and upgrade the lighting system to LED technology that is expected to last approximately 20 years.

J. Flannery made a motion to recommend the repair and upgrade of the High School Lighting system in the amount of \$125,000 from Free Cash. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 5/0.

The Superintendent outlined the capital request for a steam boiler replacement at the Keough Memorial Academy, 60 Harpin Street. After the presentation and discussion about the scope and proposed work, the Finance Committee recommended 5/0 not more than \$200,000 from Free Cash for the HB Smith Cast Iron Steam Boiler and Hoffman condensate/feedwater purchase and installation as outlined in the Arden Engineering Boiler Replacement Project letter dated February 24, 2022, detailing the Scope of Service / installation at a total price of \$198,500. The Arden proposal is valid for 90 days and includes Terms and Conditions. Recommended 5/0.

Mr. Marano told members about the ELA (English Language Arts) curriculum review that is being conducted. Currently, there is field testing being established for one unit in Grades Pre-K–8 for each of the programs selected. In Grades 6-8 they will be field testing a few different curriculums and at the end of field testing in May, the School Department will make their decision.

At that point, the materials will need to be ordered, professional development will be scheduled and preparation for full implementation of the new curriculum in the upcoming school year.

J. Collamati made a motion to recommend the amount of \$150,000 from Free Cash for the English Language Arts curriculum review. J. Flannery seconded. Recommended 5/0.

School Department is requesting funds to replace the 3 floor scrubber machines. One for each of the Schools: High School, Middle School and Stallbrook School. These units would replace the failing units that have lasted over 20 years.

J. Flannery made a motion to recommend the amount of \$33,000 from Free Cash for the purchase of 3 floor scrubbers. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 5/0.

Public Hearing: Recommendation of FY23 Budget Accounts for various departments as listed below:

Account Number	Description	Amount
992	Group Insurance	\$ 7,500,000
900	OPEB	\$ 50,000
900	Trust Fund	\$ 100,000
Total Transfers and other Financing		\$ 7,650,000

J. Collamati made a motion to recommend \$7,650,000 from Taxation for Transfers and other Financing. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 5/0.

Account Number	Description	Amount
424	Street Lighting	\$ 155,000

J. Collamati made a motion to recommend \$155,000 from Taxation for the Street Lighting account. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 5/0.

Account Number	Description	Amount
430	Trash	\$ 1,925,434

J. Flannery made a motion to recommend \$1,925,434 from Taxation for the Trash Enterprise Account. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 5/0.

Public Hearing: Ms. MacKinnon was present to discuss the Request for a FY22 Reserve Fund Transfer for Veterans Benefits / Assistance. The Town received \$9,006 to pay eligible participants \$79 a month for 6 months (January through June 2022) to offset the increase in Social Security benefits that could affect the assistance received through Chapter 115.

J. Collamati made a motion to approve the Fund Transfer of \$9,006 to the General Fund for this Request. J. Flannery seconded. Recommended 5/0.

Public Hearing: Review of Town Warrant and Recommendations of Articles listed below:

Article 6 – Conveyances and Easements -

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

Article 7 – Purchase of Surplus Equipment

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

Article 8 – Town Property Auction

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

Article 9 – Highway Construction

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

Article 11 – Amend FY22 Trash Enterprise Budget

This Article was postponed until the next Finance Committee Meeting, scheduled for April 11, 2022.

Article 15 – Capital Outlay

This Article was discussed and voted on earlier this evening with the Police Department, Fire Department and School Department.

Article 16 – Non-Capital Outlay

This Article was discussed and voted on earlier this evening with the School Department.

Article 19 – Deed in Lieu of Foreclosure

J. Collamati made a motion to recommend Article 19 on the Town Warrant. The property is located on Freeman Street and is in Tax Title with an outstanding balance of \$145,000. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 5/0.

Article 20 – Deed in Lieu of Foreclosure

J. Kuzmeskas made a motion to recommend Article 20 on the Town Warrant. The property is located on Mann Street and is in Tax Title with an outstanding balance of \$15,000. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 5/0.

Article 23 – Amend General Bylaws Chapter 71-6 Revolving Fund

K. Keppler made a motion to recommend the Revolving Fund in the amount of \$50,000 for the lunch program at the Senior Center. J. Flannery seconded. Recommended 5/0.

Article 24 – Transfer to Stabilization Fund

J. Collamati made a motion to recommend the Transfer of \$250,00 from Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund, as described in Article 24 of the Town Warrant. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 5/0.

Ms. MacKinnon let Committee Members know that the following two Articles will most likely be “passed over” at Town Meeting:

Article 25 – Transfer to Capital Investment Trust Fund

Article 26 – Transfer to Group Insurance Trust Fund

Article 27 – Unpaid Bills

Ms. MacKinnon would like to hold off on this Article at this time.

New Business, Emails, Correspondence, Bills:

The next Finance Committee Meeting will take place on Monday, April 11, 2022, at 5:30 pm, in the Arcand Meeting Room.

J. Collamati made a motion to adjourn at 7:12 pm. Seconded by J. Flannery. Recommended 5/0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tina M. Griffin
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