

**Finance Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 8, 2024, 5:30 pm
Bellingham Municipal Center
Arcand Meeting Room**

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

Finance Committee Members Absent: J. McCarthy

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

J. Kuzmeskas made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 1, 2024, Finance Committee Meeting, as submitted. K. Keppler seconded. Approved 5/0.

Public Hearing: Article 1 – Gas Travel Expenses

J. Kuzmeskas made a motion to recommend 67.0 cents per mile for employees that use their personal vehicle for Town business. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 5/0.

Public Hearing: – Chief Fitzgerald was present to discuss the following Warrant Articles:

Article 17 – Civil Service Law

J. Kuzmeskas made a motion to recommend Article 17 of the Town Warrant for Civil Service Law. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 5/0.

Article 19 – General Bylaw Amendment Chapter 216, Article VI

K. Keppler made a motion to recommend Article 19 of the Town Warrant for General Bylaw Amendment Chapter 216, Article VI. B. Boyd seconded. Recommended 5/0.

Public Hearing: Ms. Jasinski-Dutil was present to discuss the I.T. Department Budget as presented:

There has been an increase in the MIS Budget this year due to a Cybersecurity increase, as well as the MA Interlocal Insurance Association which has new standards for all Massachusetts Municipalities. There have been some recent authentication requirements added, as well as additional security monitoring, in order to provide a more secure network environment.

J. Collamati made a motion to recommend \$757,095 from Taxation for I.T. Services. B. Boyd seconded. Recommended 5/0.

Public Hearing: BVT School Superintendent, Dr. Fitzpatrick, was present to discuss the Department's FY25 Budget, and Capital Request, as presented:

There are currently 76 Bellingham students that attend the BVT School System, which is 6% of the current students. Fiscal Year funding requests for the BVT Budget are a requirement that is set by the State and is based on the number of students from Bellingham that are in attendance.

J. Collamati made a motion to recommend \$1,237,733 from Taxation for the Regional School assessment number of Bellingham students that attend BVT School. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 5/0.

Article 18 – Debt Authorization – Blackstone Valley

BVT School is in need of a roof replacement and installation of energy efficient HVAC units. The current roof is 34-years old and is in need of repair. The amount being requested is to cover the cost of entering into the Bond project, which would be covered by the 13 towns that have students in attendance at BVT. The State will then review the request and confirm if it will be awarded.

J. Kuzmeskas made a motion to recommend an amount not to exceed 6% of \$10,000,000 from Borrowing for the roof repair at BVT School. B. Boyd seconded. Recommended 5/0.

Public Hearing: Bellingham School Superintendent, Dr. Marano and School Committee Members were present to discuss the Department's FY25 Budget, and Capital Requests, as follows:

FY25 Budget - Committee members requested more time for them to be able to review the FY25 Budget binders that were just provided to them this evening. A meeting continuation to make the recommendations for the FY25 Budget will take place on Tuesday, April 16, 2024.

Memorial School Boiler Repair

The main communications board, as well as the communication board for boiler #2 need to be replaced at the Memorial School. This request also includes a 24-month maintenance kit.

K. Keppler made a motion to recommend \$14,685 from Free Cash for the needed boiler repairs. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 5/0.

BHS Rooftop Compressors

This request is for repair and replacement of the High School rooftop compressors that service the auditorium of the High School.

K. Keppler made a motion to recommend \$60,412 from Free Cash for the repair of 1 rooftop compressor, and replacement of 1 rooftop compressor at the High School. B. Boyd seconded. Recommended 5/0.

BHS Tile Replacement

A request for replacement of the current tile at the High School entry foyer and the auditorium hallway with vinyl tile was presented.

K. Keppler made a motion to recommend \$99,024 from Free Cash for tile replacements at the High School. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 5/0.

DiPietro Heat Pump System

The school is currently cooled by an air-cooled chiller that only provides cooling to the library, administrative offices, and the cafeteria. The building is heated through a hot water loop served by a central boiler plant. The chiller has failed and is no longer operational. This request is for replacing the system with a VRF (variable refrigerant flow) system.

B. Boyd made a motion to recommend \$117,670 from Free Cash for the replacement of the Heat Pump System at DiPietro School. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 5/0.

Public Hearing: Remainder of Town Warrant Articles will be discussed at the next meeting.

Public Hearing: Building Commissioner, Tim Aicardi was present to provide members with information regarding the Capital Requests, as follows:

Fencing Repairs

Fencing repairs and some replacement need to be done to the batting cages on Harpin Street and the fencing at South Common. This would be for replacement of various panels at both locations.

K. Keppler made a motion to recommend \$30,000 from Free Cash for fencing repairs needed at Richardson Field and South Common. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 5/0.

Fire Station Windows

Windows at South Station are in need of replacement due to age and condition. This request is to replace a total of 32 window units with labor and disposal of old units.

J. Collamati made a motion to recommend \$25,000 from Free Cash for window replacements to be done at South Fire Station. B. Boyd seconded. Recommended 5/0.

Old Town Hall

Windows at the Old Town Hall building are in need of replacement due to age and some of them already being broken. This request is to replace a total of 44 window units with labor and disposal of old units.

K. Keppler made a motion to recommend \$25,000 from Free Cash for window replacements to be done at the old Town Hall building. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 5/0.

North Community Center

There is the need for repair to the ceiling at the Community Center, due to failing tiles that have started to fall into the assembly area. At the same time of ceiling tile replacement there will new insulation installed.

B. Boyd made a motion to recommend \$8,300 from Free Cash for the drop ceiling repairs and insulation installation at North Community Center. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 5/0.

HVAC Units

The plan for replacement of HVAC Units at the Municipal Building continues with their 2-3 year period for replacement of the current units due to age and repairs needed.

B. Boyd made a motion to recommend \$38,400 from Free Cash to replace 4 of the 12 HVAC units at Town Hall. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 5/0.

New Business, Emails, Correspondence, Bills:

J. Collamati made a motion to approve an invoice in the amount of \$318.32 for the month of April with the Finance Committee Clerk. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Approved 5/0.

The next Finance Committee Meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 16, 2024.

J. Collamati made a motion to adjourn at 7:31pm. Seconded by K. Keppler. Recommended 5/0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tina M. Griffin
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