

**Finance Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 4, 2023, at 5:30 pm
Bellingham Municipal Center
Arcand Meeting Room**

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

Finance Committee Members Absent: J. Flannery, K. Keppler

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

Minutes from the April 18, 2023 Finance Committee Meeting were tabled until the next meeting

Public Hearing: Ms. MacKinnon was present to discuss Warrant Article #1 – FY24 Operating Budget adjustments.

J. Kuzmeskas made a motion to recommend \$344,390 for the adjustments to Department Budgets, as presented. Seconded by J. Collamati. Recommended 5/0.

Public Hearing: Ms. MacKinnon presented Warrant Article #'s 2 through 5 for the Enterprise Budgets, as follows:

Article #3 – Water Enterprise

Estimated impacts for the Collective Bargaining Agreement

Article #4 – Sewer Enterprise

Estimated impacts for the Collective Bargaining Agreement

Article #5 – Stormwater

Estimated impacts for the Collective Bargaining Agreement, and necessary funding to put aside for the street sweeper repairs. In lieu of replacing the street sweepers, until a later date, the DPW needs to have access to funds for repairs and maintenance now that the current sweepers would both be out of their 5-year warranty timeframe.

B. Boyd made a motion to recommend the adjustment of \$176,000 from the Enterprise Funds, as presented. Seconded by J. Kuzmeskas. Recommended 5/0.

Public Hearing: Warrant Article 10 – Amend FY2023 Annual Operating Budget

There is an amendment to the current year's budget for the School Department. A transfer of \$100,000, from the School Transportation Budget to the School Operating Budget is being requested. The total budgeted amount is not changing. This is just a movement from one Department to another, and starting with the FY24 Budget, the Transportation Budget will be part of the Operating Budget going forward.

J. Kuzmeskas made a motion to transfer the amount of \$100,000 from Account Number 303 (School Transportation Budget) to Account Number 300 (School Operating Budget), as presented in Article 10. Seconded by J. Collamati. Recommended 5/0.

Public Hearing: Warrant Article 16 – Non-Capital Outlay - Under \$50,000

The proposal to create a bus access road at the DiPietro School has been taken into consideration. Currently, the morning and afternoon pickup/drop-off areas for vehicles and buses is a combined lane and causes significant traffic backups through the parking lot and down Harpin Street. At the November 2022 Town Meeting, there was an Article approved to take down the Primavera School. This was for the amount of \$815,000 and the work has been completed. The project has come under budget. Therefore, the Town is looking for support to utilize funding that already exists in that Article, for this particular purpose.

J. Collamati made a motion to recommend \$45,000 from a previous funding source, for the construction of a bus access road at the DiPietro School. Seconded by J. Kuzmeskas. Recommended 5/0.

Public Hearing: Warrant Article 27 – Transfer to Stabilization Fund

J. Collamati made a motion to recommend a transfer of \$200,000 from Free Cash to the Stabilization Account. J. McCarthy seconded. Recommended 5/0.

Public Hearing: Warrant Articles for May 24, 2023 Annual Town Meeting, as follows:

Article 17 – Acceptance of Candlelight Lane and Northern Lights Way as Public Way

Committee Members were made aware that Article 17 will be “passed over” at Town Meeting. Article 17 “not recommended” by the Planning Board

Article 18 – Hartford Avenue Adaptive Overlay District

Committee Members were made aware that Article 18 will be “passed over” at Town Meeting. Article 18 is recommend by the Planning Board, 5/0.

Article 24 – To Approve and Fund the AFSCME Labor Contract

Committee Members were made aware that Article 24 will be “passed over” at Town Meeting.

Article 25 – Town Charter Revisions

Finance Committee Members took “no action” on Article 25.

Public Hearing: M.G.L. allows Departments to make transfers from one account to another, in order to address any issue that has occurred within the current FY. These requests can be made from May 1st until July 15th. Ms. MacKinnon provided Committee Members with a schedule of funding transfers needed in order to take care of some shortfalls where additional funding needs to be appropriated. The net impact of these transfers is “zero”. One of the larger items on the schedule is for the Police Department, which has a deficit of \$50,000. This is to cover the overtime wages, due to staffing shortages taking place until the new hires complete their Academy Training time.

B. Boyd made a motion to recommend the Department transfers on the schedule provided. Seconded by J. Kuzmeskas. Recommended 5/0.

New Business, Emails, Correspondence, Bills:

The next Finance Committee Meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 24, 2023 at 6:30 pm, in the High School Library.

B. Boyd made a motion to adjourn at 6:05 pm. Seconded by J. Collamati. Recommended 5/0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tina M. Griffin

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