

**Finance Committee Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 6:30 pm  
Bellingham Municipal Center  
Lower-Level Meeting Room**

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

Finance Committee Members Absent: J. Collamati, J. McCarthy, J. Flannery

Meeting Commenced: J. Allam called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

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Minutes from the May 24, 2023, Finance Committee Meeting were tabled until the next meeting.

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**Public Hearing:** Ms. Rivard was present to discuss the Historical Commission request, as presented:

Ms. Rivard gave a brief summary on the Fire & Security alarm system upgrades needed for the Historical Museum.

J. Kuzmeskas made a motion to recommend \$12,360 from the Operating Budget for the purchase and installation of an upgraded Fire & Security alarm system at the Historical Museum. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 4/0.

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**Public Hearing:** Building Commissioner, Tim Aicardi was present to discuss the request for a Town Center Sign, as presented:

Mr. Aicardi provided members with information regarding a digital sign that is being requested to be placed in front of the Town Center. Committee members had additional questions about the details of the actual sign and have requested that Mr. Aicardi provide the requested information at a future meeting.

This item will be continued to a future meeting in October.

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**Public Hearing:** DPW Director, Jesse Riedle, was present to discuss the Department's Requests, as presented below:

**DPW:**

Mr. Riedle gave a brief summary on the request for the replacement of truck B-9, which is a 2014 Peterbilt, to be replaced with a new International Six-Wheel salt, plow, dump truck. The truck availability would not be until 2025. However, funding is needed in FY24, in order to place the order.

J. Kuzmeskas made a motion to recommend \$368,363 from Free Cash for the purchase and replacement of truck B-9, as described above. Seconded by B. Boyd. Recommended 4/0.

A request for the replacement of truck B-10, which is a 2015 F-550 diesel dump truck with extensive body rot was presented to the Committee. The replacement vehicle being requested is a 2024 gas powered F-600 Salt, Plow, Dump Truck.

B. Boyd made a motion to recommend \$134,766 from Free Cash for the purchase and replacement of truck B-10, as described above. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 4/0.

Mr. Riedle presented a request for the replacement of a 2014 MT-6 multi-purpose trackless machine, with a new MT-7 multi-purpose John Deere roadside trackless mower, snowblower and plow with a diesel engine.

K. Keppler made a motion to recommend \$248,243 from Free Cash for the purchase of MT-7, as described above. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 4/0.

#### **PARKS:**

A request for replacement of vehicle P-1, which is a 2013, 2-wheel drive F-250 truck was presented to the Committee. The replacement vehicle requested is a 2024 F-350, 4-wheel drive truck with an 8' plow to also be used as an additional snow operations vehicle during the winter months.

J. Kuzmeskas made a motion to recommend \$76,678 from Free Cash for the purchase and replacement of truck P-1, as described above. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 4/0.

Mr. Riedle gave a brief summary on some parks repairs and upgrades in the amount of \$50,000 that need to be completed at the Silver Lake Park.

K. Keppler made a motion to recommend \$25,000 from Free Cash and \$25,000 from the Silver Lake Park Revolving Fund budget for the repairs and upgrades needed to the Silver Lake Park. B. Boyd seconded. Recommended 4/0.

#### **SEWER:**

Mr. Riedle gave an update on replacement of the Old Bridge Lane Sewer Pumping Station that needs to be completed, in the amount of \$339,801. The bids are currently in progress and due on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

B. Boyd made a motion to recommend \$125,000 from Sewer Retained Earnings and \$214,801 from Free Cash for the design, engineering, construction, and contingency for replacement of the Old Bridge Lane Sewer Pump Station. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 4/0.

#### **STORMWATER:**

Mr. Riedle gave a brief summary on the Stormwater Asset Management Program. This will be to evaluate the condition of drainage infrastructure in town and develop an associated risk-based Capital Improvement Plan. Total project cost is \$149,700, in which the Department is seeking a Grant in the amount of \$89,820, plus \$43,180 from Retained Earnings, and \$16,700 in town labor.

K. Keppler made a motion to recommend \$43,180 from Retained Earnings for the Stormwater Asset Management Program, as described above. B. Boyd seconded. Recommended 4/0.

**TREE WARDEN:**

The request for additional funds to remove dangerous dead trees throughout town was provided to Committee members. These are trees that need to be removed due to safety concerns and/or chronic power outages at water supply.

J. Kuzmeskas made a motion to recommend \$50,000 from the Operating Budget for the dead tree removal project. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 4/0.

**WATER:**

Mr. Riedle gave a brief summary on the request to purchase a new water vehicle for water breaks and service-related repairs. This truck would be equipped with a crane, onboard air, 9' plow, and pto tool manifold in order to power miscellaneous tools on-site. This additional vehicle will be used in conjunction with 2 additional DPW personnel for all-season operations.

B. Boyd made a motion to recommend \$213,749 from Water Retained Earnings for the purchase of a new water break/service truck. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 4/0.

The request for the purchase and installation of a variable frequency drive for the Hartford Water Treatment Facility was presented to the Committee. A failure over the summer highlighted the need for redundancy with the Department's VFD's.

K. Keppler made a motion to recommend \$45,000 from Water Retained Earnings for the purchase of a new VFD for the Hartford Avenue Water Treatment Facility. Seconded by B. Boyd. Recommended 4/0.

The request for preliminary design, engineering, test well exploration, and reporting for the 3 replacement Wells at Site #11 was provided to Committee members. This would be for the replacement of 3 failed Well sources.

J. Kuzmeskas made a motion to recommend \$245,000 from Water Retained Earnings for the Design and Engineering for Well #11 Replacement. B. Boyd seconded. Recommended 4/0.

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**New Business, Emails, Correspondence, Bills:**

K. Keppler made a motion to approve an invoice in the amount of \$258. to the MMA – Association of Town Finance Committees. Seconded by B. Boyd. Approved 4/0.

J. Kuzmeskas made a motion to approve 3 invoices in the amount of \$318.32 each for Finance Committee Clerk, Tina Griffin, for the months of July 2023, August 2023, and September 2023. Seconded by K. Keppler. Approved 4/0.

The next Finance Committee Meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at 6:30 pm, in the Arcand Meeting Room.

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J. Kuzmeskas made a motion to adjourn at 8:13 pm. Seconded by B. Boyd. Approved 4/0.

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Respectfully Submitted,

*Tina M. Griffin*  
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