

VIA VIDEO TELECONFERENCING
Minutes
Joint Meeting Board of Selectman
and Finance Committee
Monday, April 11, 2022
6:30 p.m.

BOS Members Present: Richard Long, Chair
Mark Carson, Vice Chair
Tara White

Finance Committee
Members Present: Steven Klein, Chair
Robert Miller
Barbara Marchione
Wendy Miller
Doug Newman
John Pshenishny

Others Present: Chuck Loring, Fire Company
Maureen/Joe Krejci, EMT services
John Halbreich, Capital Planning

On behalf of the Board of Selectmen, Mr. Long called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Mr. Klein called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Discussion and possible action on FY23 Operating and Capital Budget

Mr. Klein requested Ms. Enoch to screen share the most recent draft of the budget line items based on prior discussions and changes to date. He suggested the group revisit the budget by major categories to address any questions or further suggestions on budget adjustments with the intent of reaching final approval by the Finance Committee at the coming Thursday night meeting.

Mr. Klein addressed Mr. Long as to whether the two groups were in general agreement on budget items at this point, and the reply was Yes, but no final decisions had been made by the Select Board.

Mr. Klein then raised a number of line items that still seemed to be out of norm in terms of the level of increase including 10123.02 (Conservation Commission clerical) where it was explained that most of the budget increase was covered by transfer from reduced Tax Collector department wage costs; and as to the questioned Library increase, Mr. Long said he it was vetted carefully and reflected the general wage increase and State mandated spending on the entire Library budget cost.

Mr. Klein then raised the issue of the proposed \$60K increase for seven, day shifts for EMT coverage, given fewer volunteers are available. Significant back and forth discussion with the department leaders ensued as to whether this could be reduced to 4 paid shifts. Questions were also raised regarding ability to hire a multiple number of people to fill the shifts and whether they will be able to accomplish other tasks during their shifts.

The question was raised whether the requested increase could be partially funded by another source this year, so the full operating cost could be phased in over two years. Without resolution, the discussion moved to the police budget.

Mr. Long suggested that the police bodycam/cruiser cam line item be removed from operating and treated as a one-time item this year, as it is a mixture of one-time installation costs, capital costs (that might be recovered from a grant) and on-going service costs for five years. It was agreed to make that change.

As no further changes were being proposed, Mr. Klein called for beginning to approve the major groupings now, as opposed to doing so in Thursday's meeting. Ms. Enoch noted she would like to recalculate the Medicare amount based on where things now stand. Mr. Klein said they still needed to take up capital and one-time budgets on Thursday and could address Medicare then, but finish operating tonight.

Ms. White returned to the EMT funding issue. As the Comstar account is expected to have a balance of about \$178,000 at fiscal year-end, she suggested we phase in the operating cost by subsidizing \$20,000 from the Comstar account with \$40,000 from Operating. That idea was accepted by the group with the understanding that if not all the \$60,000 is used in the first year, the unused portion would go back to the Comstar account.

As a question was raised about capital funding for an ambulance, the group switched to a discussion of the capital budget with a focus on the spreadsheet plan provided by Capital Planning Committee. Discussion was focused on funding sources for the various items, including what would come from Free Cash, Stabilization, Debt or one-time use of excess capacity. As there is still a \$52,000 deficit for Summer Storms, Ms. Enoch requested that we take that amount from Free Cash and switch the capital purchase of the extrication tool cost of \$41,000 to one-time use of excess capacity. With that settled, it was agreed the truck and backhoe purchase of \$300,000 would come from Free Cash and the new ambulance purchase of \$260,000 from Stabilization. Road infrastructure spending would come from \$500,000 in debt plus the Chapter 90 money from the State.

On motion duly made and seconded, all members present of the Finance Committee voted unanimously, by roll call vote to accept the recommendations of the Capital Planning Committee.

The Finance Committee then proceeded to act on each of the major spending categories of the budget.

On motion duly made and seconded, all members present of the Finance Committee voted unanimously, by roll call vote to approve the General Government budget of \$417,134.

On motion duly made and seconded, all members present of the Finance Committee voted unanimously, by roll call vote to approve the Highway Public Works budget of \$1,104,332.

On motion duly made and seconded, all members present of the Finance Committee voted unanimously, by roll call vote to approve the Schools budget of \$2,718,850.

On motion duly made and seconded, all members present of the Finance Committee voted unanimously, by roll call vote to approve the Culture and Recreation budget of \$136,442.

On motion duly made and seconded, all members present of the Finance Committee voted unanimously, by roll call vote to approve the Protection Persons and Property budget of \$621,517.

On motion duly made and seconded, all members present of the Finance Committee voted unanimously, by roll call vote to approve the Health/Human Services budget of \$168,076.

On motion duly made and seconded, all members present of the Finance Committee voted unanimously, by roll call vote to approve the Debt and Interest budget of \$153,964.

On motion duly made and seconded, all members present of the Finance Committee voted unanimously, by roll call vote to approve the Unclassified Expenses budget, excluding only the Medicare line item, which is subject to recalculation, of \$608,768.

On motion duly made and seconded, all members present of the Finance Committee voted unanimously, by roll call vote to approve a contribution of \$150,000 to the Stabilization Fund.

The Finance Committee will meet on Thursday, April 14, 6:30 p.m. to approve the recalculated Medicare amount and one-time expense items.

The Select Board will meet on Thursday, April 15, at 5:00 p.m. to review and finalize the Warrant Articles for Annual Town Meeting.

On motion duly made and seconded, all members present of the Finance Committee voted unanimously, by roll call vote to adjourn at 8:16 p.m.

On motion duly made, seconded, and voted by roll call vote, the meeting of the Board of Selectmen was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Richard Long	Aye
Mark Carson	Aye
Tara White	Aye

Minutes approved by Board of Selectmen: May 5, 2022

Minutes approved by the Finance Committee: June 2, 2022