



**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF NEW MARLBOROUGH**
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Minutes

**Joint meeting of the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen
Thursday, June 11th, 2020
6:00 p.m.**

Selectboard Members Present: Nathaniel H. Yohalem, Chair
Tara B. White
Richard Long

Finance Committee Members Present: Steve Klein, Chair
Barabara Marchione
Robert Miller
Doug Newman
John Pshenishny
Sandra Fusco-Walker
Michele McAuley

Others Present: Mari Enoch, Town Administrator
Tom Stalker
Marsha Pshenishny
Peter Schuyten

**Steve Klein called the meeting of the Finance Committee to order at 6:03.
Nat Yohalem called the meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 6:04.**

The meeting was called at the request of the Board of Selectmen to discuss the differences found in the finance committee draft budget and the departmental requests and additionally, to discuss the revenue numbers on the tax recap.

Steve Klein noted that the Finance Committee had not yet approved any budget and he outlined the process the finance committee had taken thus far: Given the COVID19 pandemic, the Finance Committee assumed a decrease in revenue from both state aid and local receipts during FY 2021. The Committee considered different scenarios and agreed to assume a worst case scenario of a \$70,000 decrease in revenue. It was noted that assessed property values and new growth would not be affected as they are based on data as of January 1, 2020 which was pre-COVID19.

The total requests from department heads was just over \$6 million which includes the Town's assessment for the school budget adopted prior to the pandemic. It is expected the school will need additional funding due to decreased state aid and additional expenses due to the pandemic. The Finance Committees draft proposes just over \$65,000 in reductions to the operating budget requests and is considering a reduction in the Stabilization Fund. This draft results in excess capacity of around \$105,000.

The Board and Committee discussed various line items and in many cases came to a consensus on the draft numbers.

It was noted that the Annual Town Meeting had been postponed indefinitely and there was discussion about the productivity of finalizing a budget without the context of the school budget. There was disagreement between the boards on the timing and process of adopting a Town budget before a School budget is finalized.

Michele pointed out that in order to effectively plan for austerity there should be agreed upon goals and priorities both on the expenditures (operating and capital) and the tax impact. It was agreed that a strategy was needed in the event of an additional school assessment.

The Finance Committee agreed to hold another meeting in the near future to agree on goals and priorities and further consider the budget.

A motion was made, seconded, and so voted to adjourn the Board of Selectmen meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Nat Yohalem	Aye
Richard Long	Aye
Tara White	Aye

A motion was made, seconded, and so voted to adjourn the Finance Committee meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Steve Klein	Aye
Barabara Marchione	Aye
Robert Miller	Aye
Doug Newman	Aye
John Pshenishny	Aye
Sandra Fusco-Walker	Aye
Michele McAuley	Aye

Approved by:

Date: _____

Finance Committee

Board of Selectmen