

Approved: 4, 9, 24  
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# TOWN OF WINCHENDON

WINCHENDON TOWN CLERK  
RCUD APR 10 2024 AM 11:14



## Finance Committee

Telephone (978)-297-5419

### Joint Meeting: Board of Selectmen & Finance Committee

Finance Committee Minutes

March 26, 2024 6:30PM

Town Hall 2nd Floor Auditorium

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**Finance Members Present:** Chair Thomas J. Kane Jr., Vice-Chair Dr. Maureen Ward, Charles C. Corts, Anthony Dickson, Adrian Guerrero, James Reid

**Absent:** Doug Delay

**BOS Members Present:** Vice-Chair Richard Ward, Danielle LaPointe, Melissa Blanchard

**Absent:** Chair Audrey LaBrie, Barbara Anderson

**Guests:** Town Manager Bill McKinney

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#### List of Documents Presented at Meeting:

- March 26, 2024 Meeting Agenda
  - Town Manager's Final FY25 Budget Presentation
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**6:30PM:** Vice-Chair Richard Ward called the Board of Selectmen meeting to order. Chair Thomas J. Kane Jr. called the Finance Committee meeting to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

T. Kane asked the audience if anyone was audio or video recording, hearing none.

#### Town Manager's Final FY25 Budget Presentation:

Town Manager Bill McKinney stated there were only a few minor adjustments to the budget from the previous presentation.

Dr. Maureen Ward asked B. McKinney if he knew how much the principal payments beginning in 2026 will be. B. McKinney replied if it's 10 years, it's about \$350,000.

#### Expenses

Category	FY24 Amount	FY25 Amount	Difference
School Dept	\$16,983,226	\$17,432,926	\$449,70
Police	\$2,026,087	\$2,094,210	\$68,123

Fire	\$1,504,323	\$1,613,375	\$109,052
DPW	\$1,560,672	\$1,679,950	\$119,278
<b>Expenses (cont.)</b>			
TM/Select/Fin Com	\$553,203	\$539,050	\$(14,153)
Finance Legal	\$533,198	\$597,290	\$64,092
IT/Town Clerk	\$370,476	\$431,915	\$61,439
Conserv/Planning/TH	\$265,923	\$284,585	\$18,662
Building Health	\$184,094	\$206,500	\$22,406
COA/Lib/Vet/Rec	\$674,387	\$744,760	\$70,373
Monty/Transp/Tuit	\$3,325,944	\$3,374,490	\$48,546
Other Cherry Sheet	\$42,148	\$39,650	\$(2,498)
Debt	\$1,153,598	\$857,600	\$(295,998)
Prop/Liab Insurance	\$354,484	\$381,000	\$26,516
Retirement	\$2,101,010	\$2,307,100	\$206,090
Workers Comp	\$162,000	\$180,000	\$18,000
Unemployment	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$50,000
Health/Life Insurance	\$2,384,102	\$2,688,000	\$303,898
Medicare	\$239,850	\$290,000	\$50,150
Total	\$34,468,725	\$35,842,401	\$1,373,676

Dr. M. Ward asked if the new salt solution DPW implemented this year resulted in savings due to the numbers presented. Brian Croteau, DPW director replied they were only able to use it twice this year, as they cannot use it when it rains, it will just wash away. When they can use it, it costs about \$700 to treat the main roads compared to \$3,500-\$4,000 when they treat with rock salt.

### **Revenues**

<b>Category</b>	<b>FY24 Amount</b>	<b>FY25 Amount</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Chapter 70/Local Aid	\$16,012,136	\$16,111,292	\$99,156
Property Tax	\$14,562,139	\$15,012,476	\$450,337
Motor Vehicle Excise	\$1,309,371	\$1,250,000	\$(59,371)
Transfers in	\$420,864	\$420,511	\$(353)
HT, AL, SOL, SSP	\$49,163	\$49,160	\$(3)
Cable PEG	\$37,337	\$ -	\$(37,337)
SPED Medicaid	\$60,600	\$60,600	\$0
Penalties/Int	\$210,693	\$200,000	\$(10,693)
PILOT	\$54,302	\$55,000	\$698
Meals Tax	\$101,063	\$105,000	\$3,937
Cannabis Tax	\$ -	\$140,000	\$140,000
TCML, RMV	\$9,640	\$9,640	\$0
Other Cherry Sheet	\$302,549	\$409,515	\$106,966
Interest Income	\$22,414	\$60,000	\$37,586
Treasurer misc	\$221,235	\$250,000	\$28,765
Town Clerk	\$42,299	\$42,400	\$101
CC,PB,ZB,PO,FL,PT,FP	\$72,858	\$50,700	\$(22,158)
Ambulance	\$710,883	\$650,000	\$(60,883)
Building Permits	\$145,273	\$150,000	\$4,727

Cem, BOH	\$56,777	\$51,000	\$(5,777)
Total	\$34,443,211	\$35,077,294	\$634,083

**Budget Totals**

Category	Expenses	Revenue	Difference
	\$35,842,401	\$35,077,294	\$(765,107)
ARPA		\$200,000	\$200,000
Cannabis Revenue		\$50,000	\$50,000
Free Cash		\$350,000	\$350,000
Treasurer Misc		\$165,107	\$165,107
Total	\$35,842,401	\$35,842,401	\$ -

**Revenues (from State)**

Category	FY22 Amount	FY23 Amount	FY24 Amount	FY25 Amount
Chapter 70	\$11,529,590	\$12,492,076	\$14,000,926	\$14,039,746
Local Aid	\$1,849,001	\$1,948,847	\$2,011,210	\$2,071,546
Total	\$13,378,591	\$14,440,923	\$16,012,136	\$16,111,292
Increase	\$101,017	\$1,062,332	\$1,571,213	\$99,156

**Revenue (Tax levy)**

Category	FY22 Amount	FY23 Amount	FY24 Amount	FY25 Amount
Tax levy prior yr	\$12,974,050	\$13,466,411	\$13,906,524	\$14,334,126
2.5% increase	\$324,351	\$336,660	\$347,663	\$358,353
New Growth	\$168,010	\$103,453	\$79,939	\$80,000
Total	\$13,466,411	\$13,906,524	\$14,334,126	\$14,772,479
Increase	\$492,361	\$440,113	\$427,602	\$438,353

**Revenue Budget FY22-FY25**

Category	FY22 Amount	FY23 Amount	FY24 Amount	FY25 Amount
Total Revenue	\$30,512,474	\$32,634,484	\$34,443,211	\$35,094,632
Increase prior yr	\$557,244	\$2,122,010	\$1,808,727	\$651,421
Chap 70/Local Aid	\$101,017	\$1,062,332	\$1,571,213	\$99,156
Tax Levy	\$492,361	\$440,113	\$427,602	\$438,353
Total Increase	\$593,378	\$1,502,445	\$1,998,815	\$537,509

**Net School Spending**

Category	FY22 Amount	FY23 Amount	FY24 Amount	FY25 Amount
Required	\$17,040,600	\$18,305,278	\$20,130,691	\$20,502,162
Actual	\$17,561,136	\$	\$	\$
Budgeted		\$18,670,799	\$20,180,691	

**WATER/SEWER Retained Earnings**

Category	FY20 Amount	FY21 Amount	FY22 Amount	FY23 Amount
Water	\$22,207	\$(81,563)	\$50,623	\$45,203

Sewer	\$(40,406)	\$(154,132)	\$58,965	\$304,163
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**Water Enterprise Fund**

Expenses	FY24 Amount	FY25Amount	Revenue	FY24	FY25
Personnel	\$244,076	\$307,928	Connection/CWA	\$11,615	\$11,500
Expenses	\$628,950	\$649,150	Liens	\$30,300	\$30,000
Debt Service	\$139,517	\$115,000	Int/Penalties/Misc	\$15,655	\$15,500
Indirect	\$193,815	\$216,337	Water Rates	\$1,184,700	\$1,331,550
Total	\$1,206,358	\$1,288,415	Total Difference	\$1,242,270	\$1,388,550
					\$100,165

**Sewer Enterprise Fund**

Expenses	FY24 Amount	FY25Amount	Revenue	FY24	FY25
Personnel	\$16,476	\$16,770	Connection	\$20,200	\$20,402
Expenses	\$1,159,745	\$1,164,409	Liens	\$30,300	\$30,300
Debt Service	\$271,313	\$90,000	Int/Penalties/Misc	\$7,070	\$50,070
Indirect	\$173,097	\$135,403	Sewer Rates	\$1,140,086	\$1,116,720
Total	\$1,620,631	\$1,406,582	Betterments	\$443,390	\$190,000
			Total	\$1,641,046	\$1,407,492
			Difference		\$910

**Transfer Station Enterprise Fund**

Expenses	FY24 Amount	FY25Amount	Revenue	FY24	FY25
Personnel	\$68,340	\$75,310	Trash Bags- Large	\$74,375	\$74,375
Expenses	\$173,997	\$154,500	Trash Bags- Small	\$31,500	\$31,500
Debt Service	\$ -	\$30,000	Landfill Decals	\$97,500	\$97,500
Indirect	\$13,761	\$23,480	Demolition Materials	\$66,500	\$82,000
Total	\$256,098	\$283,290	Roadside Trash Fees	\$2,500	\$2,500
			Total	\$272,375	\$4,585

**PEG Access Enterprise Fund**

Expenses	FY24 Amount	FY25Amount	Revenue	FY24	FY25
Personnel	\$35,000	\$67,500	Capital Payment	\$30,000	\$30,000
Expenses	\$46,300	\$28,394	PEG Quarterly Fee	\$80,000	\$100,000
Capital	\$30,000	\$30,000	User Assessment Fee	\$1,300	\$1,000
Indirect	\$ -	\$5,106			
Total	\$111,300	\$131,000	Total	\$111,300	\$131,000

**Challenges going forward FY26-**

- Health Insurance 10% increase = \$265K
- Pension contribution 10% increase = \$230K
- Debt- About \$3.5M was authorized and borrowed in the last year. Principal not due in FY24 or FY25 but will be due in FY26. 10 year borrowing = \$350K principal + \$200K int
- Water and sewer funds have fun a deficit in some of the past few years.

- \$9.5M water line project to be paid for with the water rate increase
- Union contracts expire at the end of FY25

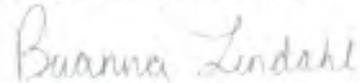
T. Kane wanted to echo B. McKinney's concern with the direction the budget is going. He wanted to emphasize to the public that this is not a balanced budget in terms of regular revenues paying for expenses. There will be serious fiscal problems in the near future if things aren't changed, to raise revenues or cut expenses, or ideally both.

**Member Comments:** None.

**Public Input:** Jane LaPointe asked what the next steps were in regards to hearings/meetings. There will be a public hearing on April 23rd for the warrants. The Town Meeting will be on May 20th.

**7:06PM-** Dr. M. Ward motioned to adjourn the Finance Committee, 2nd by C. Corts.  
**Corts (Y) Dickson (Y) Guerrero (Y) Reid (Y) Ward (Y) Kane (Y) 6-0**

Respectfully submitted:



Brianna Lindahl, Finance Committee Recording Secretary

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Thomas Kane, Chair

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Dr. Maureen Ward, Vice-Chair

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Charles C. Corts

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Douglas Delay

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Anthony Dickson

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Adrian Guerrero

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James Reid