

TOWN OF WINCHENDON



Finance Committee

Telephone (978)-297-5419

Regular Meeting/Public Hearing

Finance Committee Minutes

Meeting conducted via ZOOM

Present: Chairman Thomas J. Kane Jr., David Alexander, Charles C. Corts, Douglas Delay, Keith Kent, Phillip Levine (Abs), Maureen Ward

List of Documents Presented at Meeting:

- February 10th, 2020 Minutes
- March 9th, 2020 Minutes
- YTD Reports

6:30PM: Chairman Thomas Kane called the Finance Committee meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes: Feb 10, 2020

Dr. Ward motioned to approved the minutes from Feb 10, 2020, 2nd by Mr. Corts.
Corts (Y) Delay (Y) Kent (Y) Ward (Y) Alexander (Y) Kane (Y) 6-0

Approval of Minutes: March 9, 2020

Dr. Ward motioned to approved the minutes from Feb 10, 2020, 2nd by Mr. Corts.
Corts (Y) Delay (Y) Kent (Y) Ward (Y) Alexander (Y) Kane (A) 5-0-1 (Abstention)

YTD Reports:

The added notes by Ms. Goguen were extremely helpful. It would be beneficial if the school department could do the same.

Health Ins is the biggest issue. There is an estimated shortfall of Active Members between 139,000 and 147,000 as more people opted to participate in the Town's Health coverage.

There is an overage of 29,000 from Retirees leaving an actual shortfall of 110,00 – 118,000. The Town budgeted for the increase in rates but not the increases in number of participants.

Mr. Delay questioned whether or not there was be a savings on **Transportation** as the schools are closed. Mr. Kane has spoken to the Town Manager about the potential for savings for both the town and school and has recommended a line item analysis of costs. There could be savings in transportation, contracted services, heating, electricity, Special Education, Homeless transportation, Athletics etc. Mr. Kane will reach out to Superintendent Landers to discuss these issues.

There was a **surplus** of 25,000 in MediCare costs and 54,000 in Veterans Costs but these may be used by an increase in Unemployment.

Mr. Delay wondered if the **revenue sheets** will sync with quarterly reports. Mr. Kane said he would expect this to be done next year.

Mr. Kent hopes to see savings in **electricity and fuel** for all schools and town buildings that are closed during this Stay At Home time.

Mr. Ward (Selectman) clarified that **Real Estate and Personal Property taxes** typically due May 1st will not be due June 1st and the deadline to apply for exemptions on taxes has been extended from April 1st to June 1st. Additionally, interest and penalties will be waived on any property and excise tax, betterment assessment, water or sewer bill with a due date on or after March 10, 2020 if payment is made by June 30, 2020.

The **Town Meeting** will likely be moved to the end of June. The Selectmen have not yet made a determination.

The **Public Hearing** for the warrant will be put off until at least early June.

The **Tri Board** is scheduled to be hosted by the School Committee but unless we have concrete financial information to discuss it would not be prudent to hold too early.

Comments from Board Members. Dr. Ward gave a shout out to Tracy Murphy for securing a 50,000 grant to help with repairs to the senior center.
No public input.

Dr. Ward motioned to adjourn the finance committee at 7:03, 2nd by Mr. Cortis. The board unanimously voted aye.

Alexander (Y) Cortis (Y) Delay (Y) Kent (Y) Alexander (Y) Ward (Y) Kane (Y) 6-0

ADJOURNMENT:

The Finance Committee adjourned at 7:03 PM

Respectfully submitted
M. Ward, Vice Chair

Tom Kane, Chairman Maureen Ward, Vice-Chair

David Alexander, Charles C. Corts

Douglas Delay, Keith Kent

Philip Levine