

**TOWN OF WINCHENDON  
FINANCE COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, June 13, 2017 6:30 P.M.  
Town Hall, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
109 Front Street, Winchendon, Mass.**

**Present:**

Thomas Kane, Chairman  
Christian Orobello, Vice Chairman  
Robert Guenther, Member  
James Robichaud, Member  
Tonya Dokulil, Member

Debra Dennis, Recording Secretary

**Absent:** Dr. Maureen Ward  
Charles Corts

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**List of Documents Presented at Meeting:**

- Minutes May 9, 2017 Regular Meeting  
May 15, 2017 Prior to Town Meeting
  - Year to Dates
  - Copy of a sample Revenue Sharing Agreement
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The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kane at 6:31 p.m. with the *Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America*.

Chairman Kane asked if anyone would be recording the meeting, there was no reply.

Chairman Kane acknowledged Mr. Guenther is retiring after six years his role on the Finance Committee.

Robert Guenther commented one of his biggest accomplishment is serving on the Capital Planning Committee. Chairman Kane wished Mr. Guenther the best and thanked him for his service.

**Minutes-** The minutes of May 9, 2017 were tabled.

**A motion was made by Robert Guenther to approve the joint meeting minutes of May 15, 2017; James Robichaud.**

**KANE(Y) GUENTHER (Y) WARD(Y) ROBICHAUD(Y) DOKULIL(Y)**

**Year to Dates-** Chairman Kane said the revenue report is encouraging at 95%. He commented it looks like we are going to hit our target. Real estate tax revenue is at 97%.

**Enterprise Funds:** Chairman Kane said the revenue for the Transfer Station seems to be running short across the board. The water revenues are up 95% on the user rates and the sewer rates is at 79%.

**Town Budget:** Chairman Kane said it looks to be in good shape. There is still out there the \$60,000 special article for the upgrade to Munis. He said this raises the question as to where we are with updating the software. He said there are a couple of big ticket items that have healthy balances. They are unemployment \$33,500, workers

compensation \$63,000 and health insurance \$310,000. It seems we will be looking at some free cash at the end of the year.

Chairman Kane said he asked the Town Manager about the joint meeting and he said the School Committee is not meeting over the summer. He asked about the budget transfers and Mr. Hickey said he will probably bring the budget transfers to the Finance Committee at their next regular meeting on July 11, 2017.

School Budget: Chairman Kane said there is still big deficits in the sped collaborative and sped private school. He said he is hoping they have it covered.

Chairman Kane said he will check with the Town Accountant concerning the \$60,000 for the Munis training and the upgrade to Munis. James Robichaud asked if he could ask the Town Accountant what the figure is for the actual revenue collected for the ambulance. Chairman Kane said he would think the year to dates would show what was collected. James Robichaud said he wants to know what has been collected verses what is in outstanding in arrears.

**Revenue Sharing-** Chairman Kane said one way of looking at the budget is the focal point of what part of the budget was fixed costs and then look at the rest of the budget. The beginning point is to take a look at trends, those pieces of the pie and then what was left. Look at how money was used in town. Gather information that is informative to the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee to see if they want to set up a committee to look at revenue sharing. The Finance Committee might want to initiate this by getting the information out there to generate some interest. James Robichaud said he doesn't think the answer is coming back to the taxpayers every couple of years with an override. Chairman Kane said we budget the school at net school spending. He said we need to budget up off net school spending. If the town sees some revenue growth then there is a formula that shows how it would be split up. The town would need to try to stay with the formula. Christian Orobello said he wouldn't want a system that is void of promoting strategy. We have to start messaging and show the taxpayers what they are investing in and how they are benefiting.

James Robichaud handed out a sample of a school and town revenue sharing agreement from another town. Chairman Kane said we need to get a better understanding of revenue fixtures over a period of time. He said we need to understand if the revenue stream has changed. He said he needs to pull some data together for the July meeting. He said they can get information together and then see in the fall if there is any interest by the Board of Selectmen and School Committee.

**Member Comments-** Christian Orobello said to understand departments better he would like to take a tour every month. He feels it would be beneficial. He would like to approach Mr. Hickey to set this up. Chairman Kane said there should be an outline of questions given to each department heads prior to the visit. Robert Guenther said the Finance Committee used to do this during the budget process. Chairman Kane said this would bring our understanding of their budgets to a different level.

**Public Comments-**None

**Adjournment-**A motion was made by Christian Orobello to adjourn the meeting; James Robichaud seconded.

**KANE(Y) GUENTHER (Y) WARD(Y) ROBICHAUD(Y) DOKULIL(Y)**

**The meeting was adjourned at 7: 31m.**

Respectfully Submitted;

Debra A. Dennis  
Recording Secretary