

**TOWN OF WINCHENDON
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, November 13, 2017
Murdock Middle/High School Auditorium
3 Memorial Dr., Winchendon, MA 01475

Present:

Thomas Kane, Chairman
Christian Orobello, Member
Dr. Maureen Ward, Member
James Robichaud, Member
Tonya Dokulil, Member
Charles Corts, Member
Doug Delay, Member

Katie Broome, Recording Secretary

List of Documents Presented At Meeting:

- Town Of Winchendon Special Town Meeting Warrant- November 13, 2017

6:30 PM Meeting Before Special Town Meeting

Chairman Kane called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM to discuss the Financial Committee's report to be presented during the 7:00PM Special Town Meeting.

The first point of concern for the Financial Committee about the articles to be discussed during the Special Town Meeting was raised by Dr. Ward, regarding the amount of Free Cash to be spent on upgrading the phone system at Murdock Middle/High School. Dr. Ward raised the point that the phone system was already planned on being upgraded for Fiscal Year 2019, and that the free cash that was being dedicated to this upgrade this year could be saved, instead of being spent when an upgrade was already being looked at in the near future. Dr. Ward added that if the upgrade was necessary this year, it could be possible to dedicate other funds to upgrading the phone system instead of taking the money out of the free cash account.

Chairman Kane agreed that saving the extra \$52,900 in free cash could be beneficial to the town, instead of spending all of the free cash funds, and raised that while some free cash could be dedicated to capital improvements that need to be made, around 10% of this cash should be saved, for emergency situations and sudden expenditures. Mr. Robichaud added that, while the Town of Winchendon has had \$300,000 in Free Cash every year, none of it has gone into savings. Dr. Ward added that it is also late in the fiscal year to be paying for this upgrade out of free cash, not set funds, and that a longer period of time to debate the necessity of this upgrade would have been more appropriate. Mr. Orobello agreed, and made note that, with proper strategy and planning, the town could save some of its free cash funds by choosing what necessities it need to pay for, and negotiating the spending on these necessities, giving the example that the police department, which originally needed \$15,000 for new equipment, was able to save a couple thousand dollars in that price, allowing the town to keep more of its free cash funds.

Dr. Ward made a motion to recommend that town reduce the amount of free cash to spend on Article 2 by \$52,900 dollars. Mr. Orobello seconded the motion.

**KANE(Y) OROBELLO(Y) WARD(Y) ROBICHAUD (N) DOKULIL(Y)
CORTS(Y) DELAY(Y)**

Adjournment:

Dr. Ward made a motion to adjourn at 6:55PM, Mr. Robichaud seconded the motion.