

# TOWN OF WINCHENDON



## Finance Committee

Telephone (978)-297-5419

**Regular Meeting**  
Finance Committee Minutes  
September 2nd, 2020  
Remotely Recorded via Zoom

**Board of Selectmen Members Present:**

Mike Barbaro, Chairman  
Barbara Anderson, Vice-Chairwoman  
Audrey LaBrie  
Richard Ward

Keith R. Hickey, Town Manager  
Linda Daigle, Executive Assistant  
Taylor Tower, Recording Secretary  
Joanne Goguen, Town Accountant

**Absent:**

Amy Salter

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**Finance Committee Members Present:**

Thomas Kane, Chairman  
David Alexander  
Charles Corts  
Douglas Delay  
Keith Kent

**Absent:**

Maureen Ward, Vice-Chairwoman  
Phil Levine

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**6:30PM:** Chairman Mike Barbaro called the Board of Selectmen meeting to order.

He read Governor Baker's order on conducting remote meetings followed by the rules and regulations for the meeting.

Chairman Thomas Kane called the Finance Committee meeting to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Member Comments:**

Rick Ward reminded the public that the budget and warrant articles are being presented at this meeting to the BOS and Finance Committee and on September 8th, 2020 the Finance Committee will hold the public hearing for the warrant articles.

Audrey LaBrie clarified the relationship between the Board of Selectmen members and the Town manager. Members are not allowed to become involved with the day to day administration of any town agency. During meetings, the members will refer to the town manager for questions or clarification.

Mike Barbaro thanked the workers at the poll for doing a great job at running everything and keeping the public safe in regards to the virus.

**Public Input:** None.

**Appointment:** Bryan Vaine for the Zoning Board of Appeals. Not present.

Audrey LaBrie moved the board approve the appointment of Bryan Vaine for the Zoning Board of Appeals expiring on 6/30/23, 2nd by Mr. Ward. The board unanimously voted aye.

**LaBrie (Y) Ward (Y) Barbaro (Y) 3-0**

**Final Review of the Town Managers Recommended FY20/21 Budget:**

Keith Hickey started off the review stating there were four changes to the budget. The YMCA requested \$10,000 and inadvertently had \$25,000 listed in the budget. It was proposed to correct the line item and change it from \$25,000 to \$10,000. Under the town manager budget, there was \$5,000 listed to fund the fall festival which is now cancelled due to COVID. It was proposed to reduce the town manager budget by \$5,000. Due to COVID, there has been an increase in cost to hold the elections. \$12,000 was requested to increase the voter registration expense. \$8,000 was requested to add to the materials account of the Highway Department. The overall bottom line of the budget has not changed.

Mr. Hickey originally proposed a special reserve that would be funded from the deficit appropriation reserve in the finance committee reserve accounts. Also included was the funding of capital purchases in the general fund. The two propositions should have been separate warrant articles so Mr. Hickey requested they be removed from the general fund and placed as separate warrant articles.

Mr. Ward moved to approve the town managers proposed FY20/21 budget, 2nd by Ms. LaBrie. The board unanimously voted aye.

**Anderson (Y) LaBrie (Y) Ward (Y) Barbaro (Y) 4-0**

**Review of the draft of the Special Town Meeting/Annual Town Meeting Warrant:**

Mr. Hickey stated there were 2 articles on the Special Town Meeting Warrant and 27 articles on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Article 1 of the Special Town Meeting Warrant is to vote and hear from the Finance Committee on any reports they would like to make.

Article 2 is seeking authority or approval to fund prior year bills of \$6,141.75 from free cash.

Article 1 of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant is to vote and hear from the Finance Committee on any reports they would like to make.

Article 2 is to choose any other town offices or committees that be required or deemed necessary by the town for the upcoming year.

Article 3 is to set the annual limits for the maximum spending limits for the revolving funds.

Article 4 is to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,800 for the senior work-off program.

Article 5 is to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 as a grant to the community action program.

Article 6 is to raise and appropriate transfer of available funds, the sum of \$15,254,266 for the fiscal year starting July 1st, 2020.

Article 7 is to raise and appropriate the sum of \$905,848 for the direct cost of the water department and an additional \$153,000 for the indirect cost of the water department for FY21.

Article 8 is to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,283,000 for the operations of the waste water department for FY21.

Article 9 requests \$190,482 for direct costs and \$21,569 in indirect costs to operate the transfer station for FY21.

Article 10 is to raise and appropriate the sum of \$13,787,063 for the school department.

Article 11 is to raise and appropriate the sum of \$837,901 from Monty Tech.

Article 12 is to see if the town will accept a portion of Central Street that was presented by the BOS dated in 2016.

Article 13 is to acquire funding to undertake the reconstruction of Central Street in the amount of \$150,000 from free cash to acquire temporary or permanent easements from the property owners along the Central Street construction zone.

Article 14 is to appropriate \$3,762,000 to make repairs to the Old Murdock Senior Center.

Article 15 is to take money from free cash in the amount of \$86,165 to make permanent road improvements to the unaccepted portion of Melon Road.

Article 16 is if Article 15 fails, and is to take \$4,200 from free cash to make temporary road repairs to the unaccepted portion of Melon Road.

Article 17 is to request transfer from free cash of \$40,046 to fund the operating deficit of the waste water department from FY20.

Article 18 is to request expenditure of free cash in the amount of \$165,032 to purchase a police cruiser, security cameras for the school, water heater for Toy Town, hot box for the DPW, and install a septic system at the DPW.

Article 19 is to allow transfer from deficit legislation special account in the sum of \$323,706 to the Finance Committee Special Reserve Account. It would be transferred as a contingency to allow the Finance Committee to address unanticipated expenses during FY21.

Article 20 is to request transfer of prior year capital balances into the general fund.

Article 21 is to request transfer of \$14,000 from revolving account to offset existing long term debt to the general fund.

Article 22 is to request the town accept the roadways known as Bayberry Circle and Pinewood Drive.

Article 23 is to request the town accept a piece of property at the intersection of Glenallen and Spring Street from the Winchendon Redevelopment Authority.

Article 24 & 25 are to request the authorization of the public to sell two pieces of property on Summer Dr. that were acquired by tax deed.

Article 26 is to request approval of allowing anyone qualified for a gold star parent full tax exemption. It was adopted by the state in 2018. There is a parent of a soldier that was killed or missing during combat that would be qualified for this exemption.

Article 27 is to officially recognize the unapproved section of Melon Rd from #404-215.

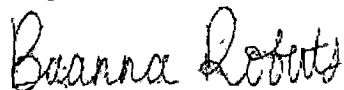
Ms. Anderson brought up an issue with Article 15 as she has spoken with several residents on Melon Rd. who do not agree with a dirt road. A few members of the public from Melon Rd spoke up and agreed that they did not want a dirt road at all. There was further discussion from the residents in regards to not wanting to approve Article 15.

Mr. Corts motioned to adjourn the Finance Committee meeting, 2nd by Mr. Delay. The board unanimously voted aye.

**Alexander (Y) Corts (Y) Delay (Y) Kent (Y) Kane (Y) 5-0**

**The meeting adjourned at 7:40PM.**

Respectfully submitted:



Brianna Roberts, Finance Committee Recording Secretary

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Tom Kane, Chairman

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Maureen Ward, Vice-Chair

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David Alexander

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Charles C. Corts

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Douglas Delay

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Keith Kent

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Phillip Levine