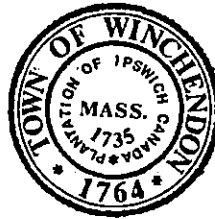


Approved: 9/3/21

# TOWN OF WINCHENDON

WINCHENDON TOWN CLERK  
RCUD AUG 5 2021 AM 10:24



## Finance Committee

Telephone (978)-297-5419

**Regular Meeting/Public Hearing**  
Finance Committee Minutes  
May 11, 2021  
Held Remotely via Zoom

**Present:** Thomas Kane, Jr., Dr. Maureen Ward, Douglas Delay, Phillip Levine, Charles Corts, Keith Kent, David Alexander

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### List of Documents Presented at Meeting:

- Audit Report
- YTD Budget Reports

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**6:30PM:** Mr. Kane called the Finance Committee meeting to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. He explained that he will work through the Warrant, ask the appropriate Town representative to speak to their articles and then he will allow public comment on the articles. After this, the Committee will close the public hearing and vote on their recommendations of each warrant.

### Approval of Minutes:

March 11, 2021 – Dr. Ward moved to approve, seconded by Corts. With a vote of Corts, aye, Ward, aye, Kent, aye, Delay, abstain, Levine, aye and Alexander, aye, the motion carried 6-0-1.

March 22, 2021 – Dr. Ward moved to approve, seconded by Kent. With a vote of Corts, aye, Ward, aye, Kent, aye, Delay, aye, Levine, aye, Alexander, aye and Kane, aye, the motion carried 7-0.

March 25, 2021 – Dr. Ward moved to approve, seconded by Corts. With a roll call vote of Corts, aye, Ward, aye, Kent, aye, Delay, aye, Levine, abstain, Alexander, aye and Kane, aye, the motion carried 6-0-1.

April 13, 2021 – Dr. Ward moved to approve, seconded by Corts. With a roll call vote of Corts, aye, Ward, aye, Kent, abstain, Delay, aye, Levine, aye, Alexander, aye and Kane, abstain, the motion carried 5-0-2.

**Review the Town Audit Report:** Michael Barbaro, Chair of the Audit Committee, was present to give an update. He noted that due to good fiscal practices, the Town is in good financial shape, especially compared to some other local communities. He also noted retirements of the School Superintendent and the Town Treasurer, as well as the vacancy of the School Business Manager and the recent turnover of the Town Manager. Town Pension Liability will be at \$22.5 million and OPEB Liability will be at \$31 million.

Kane suggested stricter discipline in budgeting moving forward, perhaps even designating an increasing percentage of the budget to OPEB each year. Barbaro shared that the Town had been diligent with tax title but had been lenient this past year, so the auditor suggested getting back on track with that. Issues with the School Department tracking staff hours and charging to the correct account were discussed with resolution being a priority. Corts asked if the Selectmen had renewed the Auditor's contract; Barbaro answered yes, his contract has been extended another year. Noting Mr. Barbaro's departure from the Board of Selectmen, the Finance Committee thanked him for his years of service to the Town.

**Town Meeting Finance Committee Report:** Kane noted anticipated savings in the Special Education Transportation account. With regard to several shortages caused by retirements and vacation/sick time payouts, Ward expressed concern with vacation payouts not being budgeted for. The Committee again discussed setting up an account for savings to account for vacation/retirement buyouts. They also discussed ways to implement more frugal practices and discipline to allow for bigger savings and more stability. They reviewed the free cash balances and proposed appropriations, which include \$453,763 to balance the budget, \$300,000 for Library upgrades and \$100,000 for a generator for the Toy Town Elementary School. This would leave a balance of \$627,705.

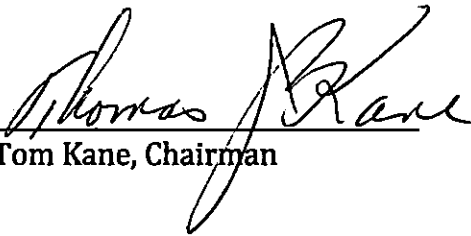
**Member Comments:**

**Public Input:**

**Dr. Ward motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Corts. With a unanimous vote of all aye, the meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted:

Taylor Tower, Finance Committee Recording Secretary



Tom Kane, Chairman