

TOWN OF WINCHENDON

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Finance Committee

Telephone (978)-297-5419

Regular Meeting/Public Hearing

September 12, 2023 6:30PM

Town Hall 2nd Floor Auditorium

Present: Chairman Thomas J. Kane Jr., Vice-Chair Dr. Maureen Ward, Doug Delay, Anthony Dickson, Adrian Guerrero

Absent: Charles C. Corts, James Reid

List of Documents Presented at Meeting:

- September 12, 2023 Meeting Agenda
 - August 8, 2023 Minutes
-

6:30PM: Chairman Thomas J. Kane Jr. called the Finance Committee meeting to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting would not broadcast live, it would be recorded and available to view on the town website.

Minutes: August 8, 2023 Minutes

Dr. M. Ward motioned to approve the minutes of August 8, 2023, 2nd by A. Guerrero.

Dickson (Y) Guerrero (Y) Ward (Y) Kane (A) 4-0

YTD Reports: T. Kane stated on the revenue side, Chapter 70 payments were off by 2.2%. The town manager was going to look into why we didn't end the year with 100% of the Chapter 70 payments.

The YTD reports were missing several line items.

Dr. M. Ward stated her concern with the accounts that are short changed, such as the fuel/heating, electricity, etc. that were not budgeted based off of last years numbers.

She also wanted to let the board know about a newer state law. The old law used to be that the Town manager could incur the short term debt, under \$300,000, for the 3 year period. The new law does not allow that. The fire department purchased new scuba equipment last May, it was delivered and they found out after the fact they needed to have the funding in place. They have since been able to use ARPA funds to balance it, but she wanted to make the board aware of it for the future.

Chair Updates: Doug Delay was not present tonight as he is on the Town Manager Search Committee. He shared with the board the process is moving slower than anticipated and it will most likely take until the end of the year before a new Town Manager is officially in place. The submissions have to be in by September 24th, after that they will move forward with the process.

The Audit Committee is meeting on Tuesday the 19th at 6:00PM. Dr. Casavant resigned so there was an opening on the board. They do have an applicant and plan on reorganizing/voting them in on the 19th.

Dr. M. Ward asked if T. Kane could send an email to James for an update on the Fall Town Meeting.

The Association of Town Finance Committees is having their annual meeting in Sharon, MA on Friday November 3rd for a half day session. T. Kane will send the members the information.

Committee Goals for FY24:

1. Review the past three years' End of the Year actuals for both revenues and expenditures to identify fiscal trends that would better inform budgeting projections.
2. Advocate for a budgetary plan that addresses the rapidly increased costs of Snow and Ice expenses.
3. Develop and propose implementation language for the Reserve Account Policies.
4. Schedule Department visits with Department Heads to better understand their goals and fiscal needs.
5. Seek a resolution to the issue of how solar farm revenues are allocated.

Dr. M. Ward suggested holding a work shop instead of a meeting to review the budget. The snow and ice budget needs to be reviewed again and increased as every year it goes over the budget by thousands of dollars.

Dr. M. Ward also suggested putting specific dates on the goals to hold themselves accountable.

For the first goal, they set a tentative date for the workshop on October 17th and November 14th, then meeting on December 12th or 13th.

For the second goal regarding the reserve account policies, they planned between January-February.

The remainder of the goals can be addressed towards the end of '23/beginning of '24.

Member Comments: None.

Public Input: None.

7:12PM- Dr. M. Ward motioned to adjourn, 2nd by A. Guerrero.
Dickson (Y) Guerrero (Y) Ward (Y) Kane (A) 4-0

Respectfully submitted:

Buanna Roberts
Thomas Kane
Chair

Finance Committee Minutes
September 12, 2023