

Approved: 5/13/2025

TOWN OF WINCHENDON

WINCHENDON TOWN CLERK
RCUD MAY 14 2025 PM2:09



Finance Committee

Telephone (978)-297-5419

Regular Meeting/Public Hearing

Finance Committee Minutes

April 8, 2025 6:30PM

Town Hall 2nd Floor Auditorium

Finance Committee Members Present: Chair Thomas J Kane Jr, Vice-Chair Dr. Maureen Ward, Charles C. Corts, Diane Coulter, Adam Gardner, Mike Giovannucci

Absent: Doug Delay

6:30PM: Chair Thomas Kane Jr. called the Finance Committee meeting to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and audio/video recording disclosure, hearing none.

Minutes: March 13, 2025 & March 24, 2025

Dr. Maureen Ward motioned to approve the March 13, 2025 minutes, 2nd by Mike Giovannucci.

Corts (Y) Coulter (Y) Gardner (A) Giovannucci (Y) Ward (Y) Kane (Y) 6-0

Dr. Maureen Ward motioned to approve the March 24, 2025 minutes, 2nd by Charles C. Corts.

Corts (Y) Coulter (Y) Gardner (A) Giovannucci (Y) Ward (Y) Kane (Y) 6-0

Exploring Regionalization Discussion: Tom Kane asked the committee to pass over this item. They invited Dr. Chris Casavant, Superintendent of Naragansett, to the meeting to discuss the pros and cons of regionalization. There are no plans to regionalize at the moment, it was solely for more information. They decided to hold off on the discussion and possibly revisit it in the summer or fall. Dr. M. Ward expressed it was important for the committee to follow up on this discussion, since back in May 2024 the vice-chair of the school committee promised they would do the research on regionalization for this school year and it was never done.

Dr. Maureen Ward motioned to temporarily pass over agenda item #2, 2nd by Diane Coulter.

Corts (Y) Coulter (Y) Gardner (A) Giovannucci (Y) Ward (Y) Kane (Y) 6-0

YTD Reports: T. Kane met with Brian Croteau to discuss some questions in regards to the DPW line items. The revenues are not accurate at the moment and it transfers over to the town's side as well. The posting of the revenues is still behind. The water department overtime is at 97%, which is a result of some serious water main breaks, with some occurring on a weekend. They questioned the interest numbers as it did not seem accurate and planned to bring it up to Mr. McKinney at their next meeting. The transfer tipping fees were \$80,000 over budget. That pays for the trash containers to be hauled away, and there has been an increase in the use of the transfer station along with an increase in the cost per tonnage. The sewer revenue did not seem up to date either, and the betterment revenue was hardly entered at all. Dr. M. Ward suggested inviting Brian Croteau to their May meeting. The Fire Department overtime is over budget by 17%, but the personnel line item overall is at 76.9%. The expense line item was at 45% due to receiving several grants this year to purchase equipment. The Police Department was more consistent with their bottom line being 76.8%. T. Kane pointed out that when the "\$4M town deficit" term is said, it is not true, there is no deficit. The \$4M is the difference between the first request that department heads made and the expected revenues. The snow and ice overtime and materials were both in a huge deficit.

Upcoming Committee Meetings: Monday April 14th 6:30PM- Joint meeting with BOS
Tuesday April 29th 6:30PM- Public Hearing on Warrant Articles (Public hearing at 7:00PM)
Monday May 5th 8AM-8PM Election- Old Murdock Senior Center.
Tuesday May 13th 6:30PM- Regular meeting
Monday May 19th 7:00PM- Town Meeting at Murdock High School

Other Committees with Finance Representation: None.

Committee Member Comments: Mike Giovannucci had asked if there was a way to inquire on past due taxes and the process for collections. Tom stated he will contact Bill McKinney as head of the Finance Committee to dig deeper on that issue. Dr. Maureen Ward wanted to give Fire Chief Tom Smith a shout out for putting together a well done business plan for 2026-2029. Adam Gardner wanted to emphasize to the public the importance of attending or viewing town meetings.

Public Input: None.

Adjourn: 7:42PM- Dr. Maureen Ward motioned to adjourn the Finance Committee, 2nd by Charles Corts. Corts (Y) Coulter (Y) Gardner (A) Giovannucci (Y) Ward (Y) Kane (Y) 6-0

Respectfully submitted:

Brianna Lindahl, Finance Committee Recording Secretary



Thomas Kane Jr., Chair

Dr. Maureen Ward, Vice-Chair

Charles C. Corts

Diane Coulter

Doug Delay

Adam Gardner

Mike Giovannucci