

TOWN OF WINCHENDON



Finance Committee

Telephone (978)-297-5419

Regular Meeting

Finance Committee Minutes

October 13 2020

Remotely Recorded via Zoom

Present: Chairman Thomas J. Kane Jr., Vice-Chair Maureen Ward, David Alexander, Charles C. Corts, Keith Kent, Douglas Delay and Philip Levine

Master Plan Committee: Elaine Mroz and Jane LaPointe

6:30PM: Chairman Thomas Kane called the Finance Committee meeting to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Kane explained that he had not yet received the draft of the Public Hearing meeting of September 16. He will follow up with the recording secretary.

YTD Reports: Mr. Kane reported that the YTD's were not ready for this meeting. He said that he would send the reports to the committee members this week. He pointed out that this month's YTD reports would reflect the budget voted on at the September Town Meeting.

Proposed Master Plan Presentation: Elaine Morz and Jane LaPointe, members of the Master Plan Committee presented an overview of the proposed Master Plan. Ms. Mroz explained that the last Master Plan was adopted in 2001 and that the Town and the regional economy had changed significantly over that period of time. The proposed Plan identifies goals, strategies and timelines for each of the following categories; Land Use, Open space, Economic Development, Housing, Historic and Cultural Resources, Transportation and Circulation, Services and Facilities, Community Health and Wellbeing, Communication and Engagement as well as an implementation plan.

Mr. Kane commented that the Plan puts an emphasis on developing the agriculture, natural resources and recreation as important economic building blocks for the town. He also noted the goal of developing regional collaborative agreements to gain greater efficiencies in providing services.

Mr. Kent spoke about the need to expand the Town's commercial and industrial tax base to take some pressure off of the residential taxpayers.

Dr. Ward asked how the plan would be implemented and monitored. Ms. LaPointe explained that the Plan calls for the establishment of a Master Plan Implementation Committee (MPIC) that would report to the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Kane thanked Ms. Mroz and Ms. LaPointe for their work and presentation.

Member Comments: Mr. Kane reminded the committee members of the Association of Town Finance Committees on-line series of workshops. He said that they could register on line on the MMA website.

Public Input: None.

Dr. Ward motioned to adjourn, 2nd by Mr. Corts. The board unanimously voted aye.

Alexander (Y) Corts (Y) Delay (Y) Kent (Y) Ward (Y) Levine (Y) Kane (Y) 7-0

The meeting adjourned at 7:35PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Thomas Kane, Finance Committee Chair

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Maureen Ward, Vice-Chair

David Alexander

Charles C. Corts

Douglas Delay

Keith Kent

Phillip Levine