



TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Notice of Meeting Minutes: Finance Committee
2024 March 14
7:00 pm Eastern Time
Via Zoom

Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM by Jim Sullivan

Present by ZOOM Meeting: Dennis Hogan, Don Ravenelle, Brian Cusack, Dan Sherman, Bill Boodry, Evan Kenney, Edward Bean, Jim Sullivan, Ellie Zuccaro, Lorri Wheeler, Tarae Howell and Joe Bertrand

Absent: Stefan Chase, Aimee Forsythe, and Doug Butler

Also, in Attendance: Town Administrator Stephen P. Maio, Town Accountant Kevin Gill, Fire Chief Michael Sullivan, Deputy Fire Chief Tom Purcell, DPW Director Joe Conway, DPW Business Manager Ann Waitt, Superintendent of Schools Doug Lyons, School Business Manager Christine Bufagna; School Committee Members Kevin Piskadlo, Tom Markham, Steve Ingalls and Kevin Fontanella

1. Public Participation: None

2. Minutes Approval

a. Motion to approve the January 11, 2024 Full Finance Committee meeting by Bill Boodry
Seconded by Dennis Hogan and so voted.

b. Motion to approve the February 29, 2024 Full Finance Committee meeting by Bill Boodry
Seconded by Dennis Hogan and so voted.

c. Motion to approve the March 1, 2024 Department of Public Works Sub- Committee meeting minutes
by Ellie Zuccaro seconded by Dennis Hogan and so voted.

d. Motion to approve the March 6, 2024 Fire Department Sub- Committee meeting minutes by Dennis
Hogan seconded by Tarae Howell and so voted.

3. Budgets were reviewed with the following noteworthy comments:

I) Fire Department:

The budget is increased by \$748,637 over the FY2024 Budget to \$7,466,154. The primary drivers were the ending of the SAFER grant (\$297,200) as well as settlement of the new Fire Department Union Contract.



II) Department of Public Works

The Increase over the 2024 Budget was \$281,489 to \$7,252,058. Snow and Ice is level funded at \$850,000. The projected FY 2025 Water budget is \$7,470,570. And the projected FY2025 Sewer Budget is \$9,367,204.

Articles Presented

- a) Eminent Domain-\$1.00
- b) Refuse/Recycling/Yard Waste-\$2,456,958
- c) Water Main Replacements -\$5,000,000 (borrowing)
- d) Fueling Island Design-\$150,000

III) School Department

Superintendent Lyons provided an initial review of the proposed School Budget. The projected amount for FY2025 is \$52,310,699 from tax levy an increase of 5.5% over FY2024. Dr. Lyons indicated that the budget did not include any new full-time positions but did include funding for the recently settled Teacher Union Contract. Dr. Lyons also indicated that as of this date, he did not anticipate utilization of the Special Education Stabilization Fund to cover any budget shortfalls in that area.

4. Committee Comments:

Chairman Sullivan thanked the sub-committees for their work and reminded that all meetings needed to be posted and that minutes needed to be completed. Also, that the sub-committee should present to the Town Council during the budget presentation.

Dan Sherman shared his most recent forecast including budgets reviewed to date. Steve Maio shared expected amounts for the Vocational Schools and Group Insurance budgets.

5. Motion to adjourn at 8:58 P.M by Lorrie Wheeler seconded by Brian Cusack and so voted.