

Minutes

Finance Committee

October 28, 2021

Meeting called to order at 7:01 PM by Jim Sullivan

Present by ZOOM Meeting: Jim Sullivan, Dennis Hogan, Don Ravenelle, Brian Cusack, Dan Sherman, Bill Boodry, Aimee Forsythe, Doug Butler, Evan Kenney, Stefan Chase, Joe Bertrand, Tarae Howell and David Mastroianni.

Absent: None

Also, in Attendance: Town Administrator Stephen P. Maio, Town Accountant Kevin Gill, Vocational School Superintendent David DiBarri, Vocational School Owners Project Manager Kevin Nigro and Vocational School Consultant Charles Lyons

- 1) Public Participation:
No one from the public offered any comments
- 2) Motion to approve the minutes for June 24, 2021 meeting by Joseph Bertrand
Seconded by Dan Sherman and so voted.
- 3) Motion to approve the Forecasting Subcommittee minutes for the October 7, 2021 meeting by Dan Sherman
Seconded by Don Ravenelle and so voted.
- 4) Town Administrator presented the Committee with a review of Fiscal Year 2021 and a general discussion regarding FY2022 and beyond followed.
- 5) Dan Sherman presented an updated forecast. The forecast presents a much rosier outlook than was projected in April of 2021. It is anticipated that we will experience budget surpluses in the near future, including costs of the proposed Vocational School project as well as other capital and budgetary needs.
- 6) November 7, 2020 Town Meeting (see finance sheet attached)
 - i) Article 2 Free cash: Motion to recommend the expenditure of \$2.5 Million of free cash to balance the FY2021 budget by Joseph Bertrand seconded by Dennis Hogan and so voted unanimously.
 - ii) Article 3 Public Safety Building Additional Funding : Motion to recommend appropriation by Borrowing \$2.5 Million by Joseph Bertrand seconded by Dennis Hogan and so voted on a vote of 10-3 with Jim Sullivan, Dennis Hogan, Don Ravenelle, Brian Cusack, Dan Sherman, Bill Boodry, Aimee Forsythe, Joe Bertrand, Tarae Howell and David Mastroianni in the affirmative and Evan Kenney, Stefan Chase, and Doug Butler in the negative. Those in the negative felt that a delay was warranted due to the recent spike in the costs of building products.

- iii) Article 4 Vocational School Project : Motion to recommend approval of the project by Joseph Bertrand seconded by Dennis Hogan and so voted unanimously.
- iv) Article 5 Library Contract: Motion to recommend the expenditure of \$30,000 of Free Cash for the Library Contract by Joseph Bertrand seconded by Don Ravenelle and so voted unanimously.
- v) Article 6 Library Sunday Hours \$30,000 of Free Cash Motion to Recommend by Joseph Bertrand seconded by Dennis Hogan and so voted unanimously.
- vi) Article 7 Broadway Improvements \$400,000 Free Cash motion to recommend by Joseph Bertrand seconded by Dennis Hogan and so voted unanimously.

7) Committee Comments:

- i) Stefan Chase requested the details on School Spending in FY2021 as well as an accounting of the \$1.4 Million carry forward amount into FY2022
- ii) Stefan Chase requested that we review the methodology on “charge backs” between departments for services.
- iii) Dennis Hogan requested answers regarding the responsibility of the MBTA (among other entities) regarding the cost of the Quad Gates at Broadway. He also felt that by requiring the trains to proceed at a slower limit would be a method to achieve the necessary safety rating without expenditure of funds.
- iv) Bill Boodry requested and update on the two new appointments.
- v) Brian Cusack “enjoyed” the robust and productive conversation at the meeting.
- vi) Chairman Sullivan stated that subcommittee assignments would be issued soon (please contact him with any preferences) and that the two new members should be on board in a couple of weeks.

- 8) Motion to adjourn at 8:56 PM by Joseph Bertrand seconded by Dennis Hogan and so voted unanimously.