

## Minutes

### Finance Committee

March 3, 2022

Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM by Jim Sullivan

Present by ZOOM Meeting: Jim Sullivan, Brian Cusack, Dan Sherman, Bill Boodry, Aimee Forsythe, Tarae Howell and David Mastroianni, Zachery Sletterink, Edward Bean, Don Ravenelle and Doug Butler

Absent: Dennis Hogan, Stefan Chase, Joseph Bertrand and Evan Kenney

Also, in Attendance: Town Administrator Stephen P. Maio, Town Accountant Kevin Gill, Fire Chief Michael Sullivan, Deputy Fire Chief Thomas Purcell, Health Director Anthony Chui, Board of Health Chairman Candace Linehan, John Spinello, Superintendent Doug Lyons, School Business Manager Christine Bufagna, School Committee Chair Suzy Veilleux, School and School Committee Member Tom Markham

- 1) Public Participation: None
- 2) Motion to approve minutes of the minutes for the January 26,2022 Library Budget Subcommittee meeting by Tarae Howell Seconded by Dan Sherman and so voted.
- 3) Motion to approve minutes of the minutes for the February 17,2022 Full Finance Committee meeting by Bill Boodry Seconded by Tarae Howell and so voted.
- 4) Budgets were reviewed with the following noteworthy comments:

#### **I) Fire Department**

Aimee Forsythe presented a report of the subcommittee. Finance Committee members expressed concern over the overtime budget and the manning of each shift. The Fire Department proposed budget for FY2023 was \$6,327,332 an increase of \$207,144 over FY2022.

#### **II) Animal Inspector:**

Budget is level funded from FY2022

#### **III) Parking Clerk:**

The budget is decreased by 168 over FY 2022.

**IV) Health and Human Services:**

The Health and Human Services Department recommended increase is \$106,053 over FY2022 which represents a renewed focus on prevention, remediation and maintenance. These necessary services were certainly highlighted during the pandemic. These increased services which lead to an increase of a total of 3 positions include a Human Services Manager/ Chief Operating Officer, a social services coordinator, a part time Assistant Public Health Nurse, and Health Inspector (previously the health inspector was shared with Melrose).

The positions will be funded by Tax Levy and ARPA funds. Members of the Board of Health commented on the importance of these positions and the direction of Public Health in Wakefield.

Members of the Finance Committee expressed concern over the high overall increase in this budget, the need for the positions as well as the use of ARPA funds in this manner. Members also expressed concern over the Chief Operations officer title. Finally, members requested more metrics to verify the need.

**V) General Insurance**

- a) The Increase over the 2022 Budget was \$36,141 due to extra coverage for Police at the shooting range as well as general market conditions.

**VI) Workers Compensation:**

- a) The increase over the 2022 Budget Was \$15,510. However, our experience rating is very good going forward.

- 5) School Department: Superintendent Lyons presented an initial draft of the FY2023 School budget. The budget presented contemplates a 4.99% increase over FY2022 including 9 new Full time positions. The proposed budget also proposes the use \$363,000 in ARPA Funds for 1 year contracts for 2 full time custodians and 2 full time nurse positions. Total budget proposed was \$47,722,077 (including bus fees).

- 6) Committee Comments:

Bill Boodry requested that the subcommittee minutes be available before the Finance Committee meeting that the budgets are to be presented and that metrics and benchmarks be utilized to justify budgetary expenditures.

Next meeting will be March 16, 2022 @7PM

- 7) Motion to adjourn at 9:13 P.M by Bill Boodry seconded by Don Ravenelle and so voted.

