

Minutes

Finance Committee

March 31, 2022

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by Jim Sullivan

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

Absent: Joseph Bertrand,

Also, in Attendance: Town Administrator Stephen P. Maio, Town Accountant Kevin Gill, Superintendent Doug Lyons, School Business Manager Christine Bufagna, Vocational School Superintendent Dave DiBarri, Vocation School Business Manager James Picone and School Committee Chair Suzy Veilleux

- 1) Public Participation: None
- 2) Motion to approve the minutes for the February 24, 2022 Town Hall Budget Subcommittee by Tarae Howell seconded by Zachery Sletterink and so voted.
- 3) Motion to approve the minutes for the February 24, 2022 Fire Department Budget Subcommittee by Dennis Hogan seconded by Aimee Forsythe and so voted.
- 4) Motion to approve the minutes for the March 9, 2022 DPW Budget Subcommittee by Dennis Hogan seconded by David Mastroianni and so voted.
- 5) Motion to approve minutes of the minutes for the March 16, 2022 Full Finance Committee meeting by Bill Boodry Seconded by Dennis Hogan and so voted.
- 6) Budgets were reviewed with the following noteworthy comments:

- i) Vocational Schools

Superintendent David DiBarri and Business Manager James Picone presented the FY2023 Northeast Regional Metropolitan Vocational School (NRMV) Budget. The overall budget for the operational portion of the NMRV increased by .88% for the member communities as the NMRV utilized reserves and increases in Chapter 70 Aid to fund their programs. The budget also includes the debt service payment of \$1,862,200 for the new school. Wakefield's share of the debt service is \$151,028. The total assessment to Wakefield including the debt service is \$2,017,068 for FY2023. This amount is based

upon 106 students at the NMRVS and represents an increase of \$248,836 over FY2023. Superintendent DiBarri thanked the town for all its support over the years.

It was noted that the Vocational School expenditure for the Town also may include students at Essex North Shore Regional and Minuteman Regional. It is anticipated that in FY2023, 7 students will attend Essex North Shore and none will attend Minuteman (however, we will not have a number until October).

The total recommended Vocational School Budget for FY2023 is \$2,163,315.00.

ii) Wakefield Public Schools

Superintendent Lyons and Business Manager Bufagna presented the Wakefield Public Schools FY2023 Budget in the amount of \$47,722,077 representing an increase of \$2,263,877 or 4.99%. The School Department will also request \$323,959 in ARPA funds to fund 4 new positions. The proposed budget also includes nine new full-time positions. A total of thirteen new positions are contemplated.

Chairman of the School Budget Subcommittee Doug Butler stated that the 4.99% increase was reasonable. Mr. Butler also opined on the subject of "how Wakefield can be rated among the top 100 schools in Massachusetts". Superintendent Lyons stated that it was certainly possible.

Some members expressed concern over the sustainability of the 13 new positions.

7) Committee Comments:

Next meeting is April 14, 2022.

A new DPW budget complete with the proposed new contract settlement should be presented. It is also anticipated that Capital Planning, Medicare, Health Insurance, Cable and the remaining Warrant Articles will be presented as well voting on all recommendations for the FY2023 Annual Town Meeting on May 16, 2022.

8) Motion to adjourn at 8:58 P.M by Bill Boodry seconded by Evan Kenney and so voted.