

Minutes

Finance Committee

April 8, 2021

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

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

Absent:

Also in Attendance: Town Administrator Stephen P. Maio, Town Accountant Kevin Gill

- 1) Public Participation: None
- 2) Approval of Minutes of March 25, 2021 by Brian Cusack seconded by Gerard Leeman as amended and so voted unanimously.
- 3) Approval of March 10, 2021 Capital Planning Subcommittee Minutes by Joseph Bertrand seconded by Dave Mastroianni and so voted.
- 4) FY2022 Budgets were voted on pursuant to the attached budget recommendation sheet.
- 5) FY2022 Articles were voted on pursuant to the attached article recommendation sheet.
- 6) Committee Comments

Town Accountant Kevin Gill presented the Year to Date local receipts as compared with the last three Fiscal years.

Town Accountant Kevin Gill stated that there could be Reserve Fund Transfers up to \$100,000.

- 7) Motion to adjourn at 8:11 PM by Dan Sherman seconded by Gerard Leeman and so voted unanimously.

Fiscal Year 2022 Finance Committee Budget Recommendations

1) General Government

Joseph Bertrand moved to recommend the General Government Budget of \$2,571,431 with \$2,566,931 from Tax Levy and \$4500 from available funds seconded by Evan Kenney and so voted unanimously.

2) Protection of Persons & Property

Joseph Bertrand moved to recommend the Protection of Persons and Property Budget of \$12,946,076 with \$12,946,076 from Tax levy seconded by Dennis Hogan and so voted unanimously.

3) Human Services

Joseph Bertrand moved to recommend the Human Services budget of \$903,626 with \$903,626 from Tax levy seconded by Brian Cusack and so voted unanimously.

4) Department of Public Works

Joe Bertrand moved to recommend the Department of Public Works budget in the amount of \$7,356,335 with \$7,267,539 from Tax levy and \$88,796 from available funds seconded by Dan Sherman and so voted unanimously

5) Water and Sewer Enterprise

Joe Bertrand moved to recommend the Water and Sewer Enterprise Budget in the amount of \$15,259,882 with \$6,277,749 from Water Receipts and \$8,982,133 from Sewer Receipts seconded by Dan Sherman and so voted unanimously.

6) School Department

Joe Bertrand moved to recommend the School Department budget in the amount of \$45,458,200 with \$45,343,200 from Tax levy and \$115,000 from available funds seconded by Dan Sherman. Committee members expressed concern over the anticipated increases due to collective bargaining. The committee also discussed the wisdom and ramifications of offsetting the budget by the anticipated \$360,000 in Federal COVID relief money and felt that there would be an issue with the School Committee at Town Meeting. Town Administrator Maio indicated that the offsets occurred in other Municipal budgets and related that if included in the tax levy portion a slight risk may occur that an audit would not allow the Federal funds to be used in this matter. In the event that Federal funds were not available at all, both the School budget and other Town budgets would be looking for supplements (however that scenario in

unlikely). Most Committee members felt that any discrepancy at Town Meeting was explainable. Motion passed by a count of 12-3 with Dennis Hogan, Gerard Leeman, Brian Cusack, Dan Sherman, Bill Boodry, Aimee Forsythe, Stefan Chase, Joe Bertrand, Tarae Howell, David Mastroianni, Don Ravenelle and Jim Sullivan in the affirmative and Joanne Reilly, Evan Kenney and Doug Butler in the negative.

7) Library

Joseph Bertrand moved to recommend the Library budget of \$1,751,632 with \$1,702,493 from Tax levy and \$49,139 from available funds seconded by Dan Sherman and so voted unanimously.

8) Vocational Schools

Joseph Bertrand moved to recommend the Vocational School budget of \$1,909,388 with \$1,909,388 from Tax levy seconded by Dan Sherman and so voted unanimously.

9) Unclassified

Joseph Bertrand moved to recommend the unclassified budget of \$2,472,045 with 1,920,806 from Tax levy and \$551,239 from available funds seconded by Dan Sherman and so voted unanimously.

10) Benefits and Administration

Joseph Bertrand moved to recommend the Benefits and Administration budget of \$ 18,287,809 with \$18,287,809 from Tax levy seconded by Dan Sherman and so voted unanimously.

11) WMGLD Benefit Expense

Joseph Bertrand moved to recommend the WMGLD Benefit expense transfer of \$2,350,473 with \$2,350,473 from the WMGLD accounts seconded by Dan Sherman and so voted unanimously.

Fiscal Year 2022 Finance Committee Article Recommendations

1) Capital Outlay Article 2

Joseph Bertrand moved to recommend the Capital Outlay Article with \$1,982,325 from Tax Levy \$250,000 from Water Enterprise and \$170,000 from Sewer Enterprise seconded by Joanne Reilly. Dan Sherman requested that the IT line include the Library request of \$7312 for various IT related needs. Town Administrator Maio stated that the Library request could be accommodated within the existing Capital appropriation. The Finance Committee voted unanimously to approve the Capital Outlay Article with a change in the prose to reflect the Library request. The amounts would remain as presented.

2) Debt Service Article 3

Joseph Bertrand moved to recommend the Debt Service Article in the amount of \$4,133,698 from Tax levy seconded by Dan Sherman and so voted unanimously.

3) WMGLD Article 4

Joseph Bertrand moved to recommend favorable action seconded by Dan Sherman and so voted.

4) Supplemental Funding for various FY2021 town budgets Article 5

Joe Bertrand moved to recommend the amount of \$309,320 from Free Cash to supplement various Town FY2021 Budgets seconded by Dan Sherman and so voted.

5) Police and Fire Indemnification Article 6

Joe Bertrand moved to recommend the amount of \$100,000 from free cash for Police and Fire Indemnification seconded by Evan Kenney and so voted unanimously.

6) Eminent Domain Article 7

Joe Bertrand moved to recommend the amount of \$1 from Tax levy seconded by Dan Sherman and so voted unanimously.

7) Refuse Collection Article 8

Joseph Bertrand moved to recommend the amount of \$2,199,441 Tax levy for Refuse Collection seconded by Dan Sherman and so voted unanimously.

8) Sale of Green Street Article 9

Joseph Bertrand moved to recommend Favorable Action seconded by Dan Sherman. Some members of the Committee questioned the process for land sale. The Committee was assured that the process followed all the requirements of MGL Chapter 30B. Article approved unanimously.

9) Real Property Assessments Article 11

Joseph Bertrand moved to recommend the amount of \$38,000 from Tax Levy for Real Property Assessments seconded by Dan Sherman and so voted unanimously.

10) Personal Property Assessments Article 12

Joseph Bertrand moved to recommend the amount of \$45,000 from Tax Levy for Real Property Assessments seconded by Dan Sherman and so voted unanimously.

11) School Supplemental Appropriations

Joseph Bertrand moved to recommend the amount of \$230,000 from Special Education Stabilization seconded by Dan Sherman and so voted.