

**Finance Committee
Acushnet, Massachusetts
Minutes of Meeting
March 30, 2022
6:40**

ATTENDANCE: Chair Michael Boucher, Peter Benoit, Eric Chew, Susan Delgado, Robert Ferreira, and Eric McGlynn

ABSENT: Vice-Chair Robert St. Jean, and Jacqueline Stanley

OTHERS PRESENT: Jamie Kelley, Interim Town Administrator, Melissa Forgue, Town Accountant

Mr. Chew made a motion, seconded by Mr. McGlynn, to open the meeting. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Dr. Boucher advised the meeting was being video recorded and people were also able to attend via Zoom.

FY23 Budget & Article deliberation

Mr. Kelley advised at last night's Selectmen's meeting, the Board came to a consensus on a reduction of revenue estimates. The reduction was in the estimate for the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax from \$1,500,000 down to \$1,350,000. Today, the staff has been looking at various ways to trim the budget. He had a meeting with the Superintendent and Business manager of the School and showed them the changes and where they are at. They are talking to the School Committee Budget Sub-Committee to see if they will meet and if they can find some cuts in their budget. After he left that meeting, he set his target at \$75,000 in additional cuts hoping the School will come through with a \$75,000 cut on their side.

Mr. Kelley stated in the first round of cuts there were a couple of Department heads that he was unable to talk to yet, and he wanted to give them the courtesy of speaking with them before he unilaterally delivered a cut. Right now, he is approximately \$6,000 to \$7,000 off of his target. Dr. Boucher suggested going through the individual budgets and if any changes were made, Mr. Kelley could inform the Committee before they take any votes. The review of the budget then began.

Mr. McGlynn made a motion, seconded by Mr. Benoit, to approve the Finance Committee budget. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Mr. Benoit made a motion, seconded by Mr. McGlynn, to approve the Reserve Fund budget. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Mr. McGlynn made a motion, seconded by Mr. Benoit, to approve the Moderator budget. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Mr. Chew made a motion, seconded by Ms. Delgado, to approve the Board of Selectmen budget. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Mr. Benoit made a motion, seconded by Mr. McGlynn, to approve the Town Counsel budget. Mr. Kelley noted they would be going out for an RFP for legal services. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Mr. Benoit made a motion, seconded by Ms. Delgado, to approve the Town Buildings budget. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Mr. Benoit made a motion, seconded by Ms. Delgado, to approve the Sealer Weights & Measures budget. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Dr. Boucher made a motion, seconded by Mr. Chew, to take a five-minute recess. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Mr. Ferreira joined the meeting. Mr. McGlynn made a motion, seconded by Mr. Benoit to re-open the meeting. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Mr. McGlynn made a motion, seconded by Mr. Chew, to approve the Street Lighting budget. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Mr. Kelley said there is a change in the compensated balances. It is now at \$10,000. They are creating a Stabilization Fund, but will leave funding in this line item. If anything happens between the beginning of the fiscal year and Town Meeting in the fall, they will be able to access that. Mr. McGlynn made a motion, seconded by Ms. Delgado, to approve the Miscellaneous budget. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Mr. Chew made a motion, seconded by Mr. Benoit, to approve the Cable Receipts Reserved budget. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Mr. McGlynn made a motion, seconded by Mr. Benoit, to approve the Town Accountant budget. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Mr. Benoit made a motion, seconded by Mr. Chew, to approve the Assessors budget. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Mr. Kelley said there is an offset from Golf to offset a portion of the Treasurer/Collector's salary. It was a reduction of \$4,050. Mr. McGlynn made a motion, seconded by Mr. Benoit, to approve the Town Treasurer/Collector budget. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Mr. Kelley advised the Software Maintenance Agreement had been increased. Mr. Chew made a motion, seconded by Mr. McGlynn, to approve the Technology budget. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Mr. Benoit made a motion, seconded by Mr. McGlynn, to approve the Town Clerk budget. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Mr. McGlynn made a motion, seconded by Mr. Benoit, to approve the Town Meeting and Elections budget. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Mr. Benoit made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ferreira, to approve the Registrar of Voters budget. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Mr. Chew made a motion, seconded by Mr. Benoit, to approve the Conservation Commission budget. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Mr. McGlynn made a motion, seconded by Mr. Benoit, to approve the Soil Board budget. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Mr. McGlynn made a motion, seconded by Mr. Benoit, to approve the Planning Board budget. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Mr. Benoit made a motion, seconded by Mr. McGlynn, to approve the Board of Appeals budget. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Mr. McGlynn made a motion, seconded by Mr. Chew, to hold the Police Department budget. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Mr. Kelley advised the first change in the Fire/Ems budget is a reduction in the Salaries for the Fire Chief. When it was originally entered, they were expecting the present Fire Chief to be in place through the fiscal year and into the next fiscal year before his replacement came in. That process has been accelerated and this is a more realistic figure as recommended by the Board of Selectmen. The salaries for call firefighters and EMT's have also been reduced. A 2% raise had been included assuming that the collective bargaining agreements would have been complete, but that amount has been backed out.

Mr. McGlynn made a motion, seconded by Mr. Benoit, to approve the Fire/EMS budget. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Mr. Benoit made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ferreira, to approve the Building Department budget. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Mr. McGlynn made a motion, seconded by Ms. Delgado, to approve the EMA budget. Mr. Benoit, Ms. Delgado, Mr. Ferreira, Mr. McGlynn, Dr. Boucher-**Aye**; Mr. Chew-**Abstain**

Mr. Ferreira made a motion, seconded by Mr. Benoit, to approve the Animal Control budget. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Mr. Benoit made a motion, seconded by Mr. McGlynn, to approve the Forestry budget. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Mr. McGlynn made a motion, seconded by Mr. Benoit, to hold the budgets for the Schools, consisting of Old Colony, Tuition, Bristol Agricultural, and the Acushnet School Department. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Mr. Benoit made a motion, seconded by Mr. McGlynn, to hold the Department of Public Works Highway budget. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Mr. McGlynn made a motion, seconded by Mr. Benoit, to approve the Snow & Ice Removal budget. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Mr. Chew made a motion, seconded by Mr. Benoit, to approve the SeMass budget. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Mr. Benoit made a motion, seconded by Ms. Delgado, to approve the Cemetery budget. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Mr. McGlynn made a motion, seconded by Mr. Benoit, to approve the Board of Health budget. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Ms. Delgado made a motion, seconded by Mr. McGlynn, to approve the Council on Aging budget. Mr. Benoit, Ms. Delgado, Mr. Ferreira, Mr. McGlynn, Dr. Boucher-Aye; Mr. Chew-
Abstain

Mr. Benoit made a motion, seconded by Mr. McGlynn, to approve the Veterans budget. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Mr. Benoit made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ferreira, to approve the Library Department budget. Mr. Chew advised he had spoken with the Library Director today who reiterated that she still needs the position she had discussed with the Committee to be full time. It was not removed by her or her Board but by the Town Administrator. Dr. Boucher then read a letter from the Chair of the Library Trustees into the record. It stated how the position was needed, and they will continue to request it. Mr. McGlynn then made a motion to hold the Library budget. It was seconded by Mr. Benoit. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Mr. Benoit made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ferreira, to approve the Recreation Department budget. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Mr. Benoit made a motion, seconded by Mr. Chew, to approve the Park Department budget. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Mr. Ferreira made a motion, seconded by Mr. Benoit, to approve the Historical Commission budget. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Mr. Benoit made a motion, seconded by Mr. McGlynn, to approve the Retirement of Debt-Principal budget. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Mr. Benoit made a motion, seconded by Ms. Delgado, to approve the Retirement of Debt-Interest budget. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Mr. McGlynn made a motion, seconded by Mr. Benoit, to approve the Pensions budget. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Mr. Ferreira made a motion, seconded by Mr. Benoit, to approve the Insurance budget. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Mr. McGlynn made a motion, seconded by Mr. Benoit, to hold the Water and Sewer budgets. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Mr. McGlynn made a motion, seconded by Mr. Chew, to approve the Golf Reserve Fund budget. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Mr. McGlynn made a motion, seconded by Mr. Benoit, to approve the Golf Enterprise Fund budget. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Mr. McGlynn made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ferreira, to approve the Golf Debt Service budget. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Mr. Benoit made a motion, seconded by Mr. McGlynn, to take a ten-minute recess. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

8:15

Mr. Ferreira made a motion, seconded by Mr. McGlynn, to reopen the meeting. The **vote** was **unanimous for**.

Dr. Boucher advised they have been provided with an index of all the Town Articles. Mr. Kelley stated this is a preliminary draft of the Articles on the Warrant. It also includes an Article concerning the Storm Water Management Bylaw and a Soil conservation Article that was a Citizen's petition. He then advised how he had set this up. First with the routine Articles, then the Consent Articles, and then the Stabilization Articles. He has established a Health Insurance Stabilization Fund, a Compensated Absence or buyback Stabilization Fund and the MS4 Storm Water System Fund.

Mr. Kelley said they already have the General Stabilization Fund, the Capital Expense Stabilization Fund, and the OPEB Trust Fund. He noted that they are approaching the beginning of the maximum amount allowed in the General Stabilization Account. Mr. Kelley then briefly described the ARPA Funds. They have just under \$3 million. He has put together an Advisory Committee composed of the Storm Water Agent, the DPW Director, the Town Planner, and himself. They have gone through Representative Schmid for an earmark in the State Budget of \$25,000-\$35,000. That will take care of updating the Master Plan which is out of date. Once that is done, they will be able to apply for grants.

Mr. Kelley said the next section of the Warrant is the budget, the Golf Enterprise Fund and the Sewer Enterprise Fund. He has left a placeholder for the CPA general reserve Article if there is one coming from CPC. Next listed were the Capital items which are listed in one Capital Article. If someone wants to put a hold on a particular one, they will be able to do so. He then reviewed the remaining Articles.

Meeting Minutes

Mr. McGlynn made a motion, seconded by Mr. Benoit, to approve the Minutes from the February 16, 2022, meeting. The vote was **unanimous for**.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Ms. Forgue advised that last year an employee of the Town's Finance Department had lost her battle with cancer. A bench has been built in her remembrance. On Saturday April 16, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., they will have a dedication and all are welcome to attend.

Next meeting date

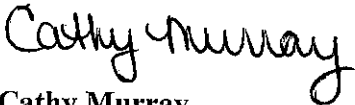
The next meeting date will be April 6, 2022. After discussion, members agreed that the time would be at 7:00 p.m.

Adjourn

Mr. McGlynn then made a motion, seconded by Mr. Chew, to adjourn the meeting. The vote was **unanimous for**.

8:43- MEETING ADJOURNED.

Respectfully submitted,


Cathy Murray

Cathy Murray

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