

Westhampton, MA Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
Town Hall
April 17, 2024

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

Attendance: Jeremy Durrin (note taker), Steve Holt, Marilyn Witherell, Carla Lussier, Tad Weiss, Richelle Hurd, Scott Stanton, Jennifer Milikowsky

Also in attendance: Doug Finn

Motion to approve meeting minutes from 04/10/2024 by Stanton seconded by Witherell.

7-0-0

Finn explained about the Tax Collectors expense increasing due to software price increasing by \$200.

Review of **Budget Summary** on our Excel sheet to showcase where we are before we start deliberations on the overall town budget.

Warrant Articles discussed on a high level to show which account the money will be coming from and what items will be voted on at the annual town meeting.

Elementary School Budget

General discussion on the Elementary Budget and how each Scenario would change the bottom line. The school presented us with 3 Scenarios. The committee discussed in great detail how this would reflect in the town's overall budget.

Scenario 1: We would appropriate \$2,130,298 to WES. WES would have to find approximately \$75,000 as a combination of cuts, new revenue, or use of revolving funds.

Scenario 2: We would appropriate \$2,205,298 to WES. This would cover their entire requested budget without the need for other cuts or additional funds sources.

Scenario 3: We would appropriate \$2,239,865 to WES. This would cover their entire requested budget and would add \$35,000 to their revolving fund for future needs.

To fund Scenarios 2 and 3, we would have to move money from free cash, as we anticipate hitting our levy limit. With Scenario 3, moving money from our town "savings" (Free Cash and/or Stabilization) to WES "savings" didn't resonate with a majority of Fincom members. The majority felt that should a future emergency come up and there is an urgent need for additional funds, a STM could be called, and support would likely be offered.

Milikowsky suggests setting up a separate education stabilization fund instead of funding Scenario 2 out of free cash.

In the end, the committee deliberated and came to the conclusion that Scenario 1 would be the best option for the town budget.

Motion has been made to accept Scenario 1 by Stanton. Seconded by Holt.
8-0-0.

Voting on Line items in the town budget

Motion to accept all 100- **General Government** items minus what was put on hold By Durrin, seconded by Holt.
8-0-0

Motion to accept 200- **Public Safety** items minus what was put on hold by Durrin, seconded by Holt.
8-0-0

Motion to accept 300- **Education** items minus what was put on hold by Durrin, seconded by Holt.
8-0-0

Motion to accept 400- **Public Works & Facilities** and facilities items minus what was put on hold by Durrin, seconded by Holt.
8-0-0

Motion to accept 500- **Human Services** items minus what was put on hold by Durrin, seconded by Witherell.
8-0-0

Motion to accept 600- **Culture & Recreation** items minus what was put on hold by Durrin, seconded by Witherell.
8-0-0

Motion to accept 700- **Debt Service** items minus what was put on hold by Durrin, seconded by Witherell.
8-0-0

Motion to accept 800- **Intergovernmental Services** items minus what was put on hold by Durrin, seconded by Witherell.
8-0-0

Motion to accept 900- **Unclassified** items minus what was put on hold by Durrin, seconded by Witherell.

8-0-0

A total of 15 line items were held and will be voted upon next week.

Motion to adjourn by Stanton seconded by Witherell @ 9:10 pm.

8-0-0