

Westhampton Finance Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
April 19, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

In attendance: Committee members Scott Stanton, Jake Antosz, Steve Holt, Marilyn Witherell, Jeremy Durrin, Tad Weiss and Barbara Pelissier (scribe). Also, Admin. Assistant Doug Finn and, joining via Zoom, Patty Cotton.

The Minutes from the meeting of April 12<sup>th</sup> were approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

**Committee Calendar:** Deliberations are planned for this meeting and the next (April 26<sup>th</sup>). According to Doug Finn, a recommendation on a budget is due on May 10<sup>th</sup> and recommendation on the Warrant Articles is due on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

Regarding the proposed change to the Finance Committee By-Law regarding the issue of a quorum, no action was taken. Tad will forward Barbara's research on the topic to Doug. Whether or not an article will appear on the Warrant is yet to be determined.

**Deliberations on FY'24 Budget:**

The committee first reviewed the FY'24 balance sheet provided by Doug Finn. It showed projected revenue of \$7,989,257 and expenditures of \$7,522,139, a difference of \$467,118.

The committee reviewed the proposed budget section by section, with members calling for "holds" on line items where more information/deliberation was wanted. After that process was completed for each section, the committee then voted, by 7-0-0, to approve to recommend all budget figures in each section without holds.

*With the following exceptions*, line items with "holds" will be deliberated at our next meeting:

Under General Government:

Approve the figure \$43,600 for Information Technology Support	vote: 7-0-0
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Increase the Reserve Fund to \$20,000	vote: 7-0-0
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Under Human Services:

Approve a decrease to the Council on Aging budget to \$3,024	vote: 7-0-0
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Under Public Safety:

Pertaining to line items Tree Warden Salary and Tree Warden Expense, Tad will send a note to the Selectboard with a recommendation from our committee that both line items be increased to reflect the extra time the Tree Warden has spent assessing (and the expense to the town to address) the unexpected issue of numerous dead trees alongside town roads.

### Review of Warrant Articles:

The committee reviewed a draft of the Warrant. It was noted that the date of town meeting on the document needs to be corrected.

Of the articles on which the committee would be expected to make a recommendation, they approved the following:

Article 6, inserting the words that the appropriation would be made from Free Cash and that the amount have a top limit of \$25,000.00. vote: 7-0-0

Article 31: vote: 7-0-0

Article 32: inserting that the transfer would be made from Free Cash vote: 7-0-0

Article 33: vote: 7-0-0

Article 34: inserting the words “transfer from previously appropriated funds”      vote: 7-00

Article 35: vote: 7-0-0

Note: Article 36 was put on hold for further discussion until the Selectboard can consider it at their April 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Vote to adjourn** meeting at 9:00 p.m. vote: 7-0-0