

Westhampton, MA Finance Committee Meeting Minutes  
December 07, 2022

**Meeting commenced at 7:00pm in person at Town Hall (and virtual)**

Attending members: Tad Weiss, Steve Holt, Marilyn Witherell, Jeremy Durrin (Taking minutes), Scott Stanton, Barbara Pelissier, Jake Antosz. Also, in attendance was Doug Finn, Phil Dowling, Aimee Burnham, and Joe Boudreau (virtual) as well as three members of the public.

**Voted to accept meeting minutes from 07/14/22**                      **Motion Passed**                      **7-0-0**

**The following motion was made -**

- Motion to nominate Tad Weiss as Chair of the committee      **Motion Passed**                      **6-0-1**

**Discussion on nominated a secretary for the Finance Committee**

- No secretary was nominated

**Action Item for Doug to look into-**

From Line 015425.850 Highway Truck FY23 - Line item was \$494.44 over budget. Doug to confirm with Highway department on the reason for the charge.

**Close the books on FY2022**

Joe B., our Town Accountant led us through the process he and Tax Collector, Patty Cotton went through to close the books over the past 3 months. This emergency process was required due to receipts not being entered in a timely manner in FY22. Great thanks on behalf of the Finance Committee to both Patty and Joe for getting this done. Joe announced that he had just submitted the books to DOR for final review and closure this week. He thought we should get a response back from DOR sometime in February or thereabouts.

Phil introduced us to Westhampton's new Treasurer, Aimee Burnham, who was in attendance for the first half of the meeting. Welcome Aimee!

**Safety Complex Update from Phil Dowling**

- Original Budget for project - \$4,260,000
- Original expected interest rate on bond was 3.4%. The town secured a 1.7% rate over 20 years that will save the town roughly \$900,000.
- Currently estimated to be over budget by roughly \$285,000
  - \$100,000 increase in building cost
  - Closed cell spray foam insulation upgrade cost \$130,000
  - Retaining wall cost \$70,000

**ARPA Fund Spending update**

The town received a total of \$489,310 in ARPA funds.

Out of that there has been \$121,199 either spent or committed on items

Anticipation that the overages from the safety complex will be spent from ARPA funds.

**Finance Committee Future Meetings in 2023**

Meetings will be held on Wednesdays at 7pm

**Bylaw Change Discussion**

- The idea of changing the total number of finance committee seats available on the board to make it easier to maintain quorum at meetings.
- Potential to change the wording of what constitutes quorum at meetings to just a majority of the current sitting members. This would alleviate the concern that we won't have enough members to make quorum.

**Vote to Adjourn Meeting 8:50pm**

**Motion Passed**

**7-0-0**