

Westhampton, MA Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
March 1, 2023

Meeting commenced at 7:03 pm in person at Town Hall and via Zoom.

Attending members: Tad Weiss, Steve Holt, Jake Antosz, Marilyn Witherell, Scott Stanton, Barbara Pelissier, Jeremy Durrin. Also in attendance were Doug Finn, Steve Brooks, Susan Bronstein, Katch Bachelor, Amy Landau, Fred Morrison, Meaghan Schwelm, Annemarie O'Reilly.

Voted to accept meeting minutes from 02/22/23

Motion Passed

6-0-1

Jeremy motioned to accept minutes, seconded by Marilyn

FY24 Line Items for review

- **Historical Commission - Steve Brooks**

- Level Funded at \$1,200

- **Planning Board - Susan Bronstein**

- Increase in budget by \$700 to a total of \$1,200. The increased budget will be used to send members to training / classes.

- **Board Of Health - Katch Bachelor**

- Discussed decreasing the budget from \$500 to \$250 because Katch stated they most likely would not use the entire \$500 budget.

- **Council On Aging - Amy Landau**

- The ask was for \$8,525 in case the \$5500 state funding of newsletter was lost.
 - After discussion, Tad proposed level funding at \$3,025 and a commitment to make up lost funding with the Reserve Fund, if it happened.
 - Discussed having a separate account of \$5,500. No final recommendation were made.

- **Conservation Committee - Fred Morrison**

- Increase from \$225 to \$1,200 to cover the costs of training / classes for new and existing members.

- **Library - Meaghan Schwelm / Annemarie O'Reilly**

- Budget increase of \$4,297.
 - Meaghan spoke about payroll increase requests to catch up to other area towns as well as a general COLA increase. Specifically the youth services library position has an increase of 6.8% which Meaghan stressed the importance of this position. Comparables in other towns are closer to \$21/hr for this position and we are currently at \$18.50/hr.

- Utilities are increased slightly to cover the riding cost of heating, electric and phone.
 - Equipment line item increased by \$1,200 to cover the costs of computer upgrades, hotspot devices, and other necessary items.
- **PVPC- Doug Finn**
 - Slight increase from \$286 to \$300
 - **Reserve Fund - Finance Committee**
 - This will be circled back during deliberation to discuss increasing the funding above the current \$15,000 to help try and scrutinize town budgets a little closer with the knowledge that if an unexpected expense comes up we will have the reserves to fund necessary items.
 - **General discussion**
 - We discussed the HRHS budget information presented to us by Steve and Marilyn after they both attended the budget meeting at the school. Will review again as the budget becomes available to us.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Jeremy, Seconded by Marilyn - 9:02 pm

7-0-0

Respectfully submitted
Jeremy Durrin