

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes - March 8, 2023 - Westhampton, MA

Meeting called to order at 7:02pm by Chair, Tad Weiss

Attending the meeting: Tad Weiss, Steve Holt, Marilyn Witherell, Scott Stanton, Barbara Pelissier, Jeremy Durrin. Also in attendance: Doug Finn, Bill Jablonski, Scott Johndrow and Maureen Dempsey.

Motion made by Scott Stanton and seconded by Steve Holt to accept meeting notes on 3/1/23.

VOTE: 6-0-0

Scott Johndrow, Select Board (SB) member, started the meeting by stating that the highway department had a tough year with rising cost of materials and that he [Scott] had heard about concerns regarding spending practices. He reassured us all that he and SB are happy with Bill's decision-making and the board approved the extra spending for snow removal. If anyone had questions or concerns they should bring them to the SB.

Tad Weiss reviewed calendar outline for our next meeting

Highway Administration - Bill Jablonski

Asking for an increase to \$12,700 from \$10,000 because FRCOG (Franklin Regional Council of Government) membership fee went up by \$2,700. Otherwise, this is level funded with this one exception. Highway Admin. money is also used for training fees and gear (shoes, uniforms) for the dept. workers, and these fees are going up, too.

Highway Materials - Bill Jablonski

Was level funded at \$94,240, but Bill decided to move it up to \$100,000 because of rising costs. Also, we were informed that Westhampton was awarded WRAP (winter recovery assistance program) from the state in the amount of \$146,209.72. This money must be spent by June 30, 2023, it's not something that can be rolled over like other funding. Bill did mention the need for a hot box unit used for keeping the asphalt hot to repair roads in the winter. Barbara Pelissier asked if some of the ARPA money could be used for this. Bill said that ARPA money needed to be approved by SB and the WRAP money doesn't.

Snow Removal - Bill Jablonski

Increase to this line item to \$120,000 from \$100,000, because of cost increases. Bill's feeling was to use salt on the paved roads and dirt and salt mix on dirt roads. Marilyn Witherell asked about wells become contaminated because of the salt being used, Bill didn't think that will be a problem based on State recommendations that have generally reduced the amount of salt used per mile of road.

Road Machinery - Bill Jablonski

Increased to \$50,000 from \$47,850 because of increases for oil, tires changes or for any needs for garage services.

Road Machinery Fuel - Bill Jablonski

Level funded \$51,000. This for all Vehicles in town, highway, police and fire.

Road Machinery Building - Bill Jablonski

Increased from \$38,000 to \$40,000. Increase in removal waste holding tank fees, utilities increase and general building maintenance.

Transfer Station Expense - Bill Jablonski

Increased from \$76,440 to \$86,440. Because the tipping fee was increased by \$4000. Also, this doesn't reflect salaries.

Landfill Maintenance Expenses - Bill Jablonski

increase from \$7,000 to \$8,000. Well testing fee increase by \$600.00 and mowing fuel increase by \$100.00.

HRMC - Bill Jablonski

Level Funded \$8,000.00

Insurance & Bonds - Doug Finn

Subject for review by Treasurer / Accountant, to be rescheduled at a later date.

Other business:

Two requests from Reserve Fund transfers:

- (1) Conservation Committee for \$92.00 to cover Ad fees
Barbara Pelissier made the motion, Steve Holt second

VOTE 6-0-0

- (2) IT Support. Hardware, Security Software, Firewall for Town Hall, Annex, Police, Fire Dept. and phone lines in the amount of \$5,500.00
Barbara Pelissier made the motion, Jeremy Durrin seconded.

VOTE 6-0-0

Review of Accountant statement

Public works had a minus of \$494.44 for a Highway truck that was sold but the check didn't get entered in.

Hampshire Regional School Committee second budget meeting update:

Scott Stanton and Steve Holt attended this meeting. The school's budget is now up to \$17 million +/- . The main increase was in special needs funding.

Motion to adjourn meeting.

Scott Stanton made the motion, Jeremy Durrin seconded.

VOTE 5-0-0

Meeting ended at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Marilyn R. Witherell