

Westhampton Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

5/2/2022

Meeting began at 7:05 PM in person at Town Hall (and zoom).

Attending: Tad Weiss, Steve Holt, Pat Miller, Marilyn Witherell, Barbara Pelissier, Jake Antosz, Jeremy Durrin. Also attending: Doug Finn, Karl Norris & Teri Anderson (zoom).

Vote to accept meeting minutes from 4/25/2022: **VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Karl Norris came to the Committee representing the Cemetery Commission. (Other members are Rick Tracy and Tom Warren) There is some concern about funding since the new hire as the caretaker for the cemetery has already resigned and the only other applicant was not interested in the job for less than \$20/hr. Karl is concerned that their budget might be short depending on applicants. The Commission will be meeting next week so until that meeting nothing is definite. After much discussion (and informational handouts from Karl) it was agreed by all that, at this point, there was not enough information to change our line item in the budget. Karl was encouraged to come to Town Meeting if the Commission determined that there was not sufficient funding and that the Finance Committee would support a reconsideration at that time.

Doug brought up the need to transfer some funds to balance the FY 2022 budget. A transfer of \$16,500.12 was voted to cover Snow Removal Funds. The \$16,500.12 came from the following accounts:

Admin Asst. Search/Training	\$2000.00
Consulting Planner	\$3500.00
Counsel Fees	\$3500.00
Road Machinery Fund	\$4000.00
Reserve Fund	\$3500.12

VOTE: 7-0-0

The group revisited the line item for the Veteran's Expense. Doug shared information he had received from Joe Henning. After some discussion, a motion was made to fund that line at \$11,000. **VOTE: 7-0-0**

Barbara asked the Committee to reconsider the amount recommended for the Library Account. Motion to recommend the original figure of \$119,806 for the library. **VOTE 4-2-1**

The remainder of the meeting was spent discussing the warrant articles and how they would be funded – free cash or ARPA funds.

A motion was made to take funding for the following articles from Free Cash: Articles #29 (Audit), #30 (brush mower), #31 (Compressor), #34 (dual band radios – police) and #35 ((Stabilization Fund)

VOTE: 6-0-0

A motion was made to use free cash to fund the \$76,000 purchase of a 4-wheel drive truck for the Highway Department. **VOTE: 6-0-0**

Another motion was made to defund \$65,000 for a 4-wheel drive vehicle for the Police Dept – hoping the Select Board would be forced to use ARPA Funds instead. **VOTE: 1-5-0 Motion Defeated.** Another motion was made to take the \$65,000 from Free Cash **VOTE: 5-1-0**

A motion was made to fund the Chapter 90 funds from the Chapter 90 Funds on the Cherry Sheet.
VOTE: 6-0-0.

The figure we would recommend using from Free Cash to reduce the tax rate was put off until all information is received.

Next Meeting will be Zoom Meeting on May 12th at 7:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Priscilla Miller