

**Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 21, 2023
5:00 pm
Hybrid Meeting**

Finance Committee Chairperson Paul Antaya opened the meeting at 5:02 pm. Additional Finance Committee members in attendance were Tom Mahar, Jim Kirkendall, Dan Kennedy, Brenda Doherty, Paul Newlin and JD Ross. Town Administrator Brian Domina was also in attendance.

Paul welcomed recently appointed members to the Finance Committee Paul Newlin and JD Ross.

Dan made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from July 12, 2023. Tom seconded. All in favor. Motion passed 5 to 0 with 2 abstentions.

Paul A and Brian provided a brief overview of the annual budget process and the other responsibilities of the Finance Committee. The Committee discussed the tentative budget schedule to begin likely in January.

The Committee discussed the upcoming annual tax rate hearing to be held by the Selectboard in early December. Brian explained the various tax policy decisions that the Selectboard is required to make each fiscal year. The Committee discussed the pros and cons of a split tax rate and the possibility of a small commercial exemption. Some Committee members expressed concern that a split tax rate could negatively impact local small businesses. The consensus of the Committee was to forward a recommendation to the Selectboard that the Town should maintain a single tax rate with no exemptions or discounts.

The Committee reviewed the Special Town Meeting warrant for November 28, 2023. The Committee unanimously recommended the adoption of all finance-related articles on the warrant (articles 1 through 5) and took no position on articles 6 and 7.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:54 pm.

Document List

Meeting Minutes from July 12, 2023

STM Warrant Articles Memo dated November 21, 2023

DLS – Chapter 4 Property Tax Classification Module Handout