

**Joint Finance Committee-Selectboard  
Meeting Minutes  
March 21, 2023  
Town Offices  
Open Hybrid Session via Zoom  
6:00pm**

The open hybrid session of the Town of Whately Finance Committee and Selectboard was called to order on March 21, 2023, at 6:00 pm by Paul Antaya. Also present were Committee members Jim Kirkendall, Tom Mahar, Dan Kennedy, Donna Wiley, Brenda Doherty. Selectboard members Fred Baron and Julie Waggoner were present, as well as Joyce Palmer Fortune via Zoom. Administrative Assistant Amy Lavalley was present. Town Clerk/Treasurer-Collector Amy Schrader, Personnel Committee member and Highway Superintendent Keith Bardwell, Water Superintendent Wayne Hutkoski, Water Commissioners Georgann Dufault, John Lukin, and George Bucala were present. Tri-Town Beach Commission member Ken Cuddeback was present via Zoom. Recreation Department Director Chris Williams was present. South County Senior Center Director Jenn Remillard was also present.

**1. To review and vote to approve the meeting minutes from March 1, 2023**

Tom made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from March 1, 2023. Motion Seconded. All in Favor. Paul-yes, Tom-yes, Jim-yes, Dan-yes, Brenda-yes, Donna-yes.

**2. To discuss the fiscal year 2024 operating budgets**

Ken Cuddeback discussed with the Board and Committee the Tri-Town Beach requests for FY24. He shared that they are requesting a \$6,000 increase in funding from FY23 due to increased costs in maintenance and wages. He stated that 43% of users in 2022 were Whately residents.

Jenn Remillard discussed with the Board and Committee the South County Senior Center requests for FY24. They are seeking a 16% increase from FY23 which equals an increase of \$5,000 due to enrollment and utility increases. She stated that 28 Whately residents utilize the Senior Center.

Wayne Hutkoski discussed with the Board and Committee the Water Department requests for FY24. They are requesting \$257,611 due to utility increases, Whately's portion of new solar on pumphouse (grant received for rest of the cost), vehicle maintenance cost increases, increase in DEP engineering costs, and increases in borrowing costs.

Chris Williams discussed with the Board and Committee the Recreation Department's requests for FY24. He discussed the increase in maintenance and equipment costs and the new Director position wages.

### **3. To discuss the fiscal year 2024 recommendations from the Capital Improvement Planning Committee and the Personnel Committee**

Keith discussed with the Board and Committee the Personnel Committee recommended FY24 Town employee COLA be 7.1% based on the CPI and Social Security Index. The Board and Committee discussed other means of acquiring a fair number for consideration including surrounding town COLAs and a possible future discussion on changing the way a percentage and wage increases are currently determined.

Board and Committee agree to discuss Capital Improvement Planning Committee recommendations at the April 4 meeting due to time constraints.

### **4. Items not anticipated**

Jim shared with the Board and Committee a comparison chart of an electric versus a gas vehicle for the new Highway truck.

Georgann discussed a request for \$60,000 in CLFRF money for a new generator for the pumphouse. Board and Committee directed her to discuss this with the Selectboard at a future meeting.

### **5. Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn at 8:03 pm. Motion seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

### **Next Meeting: April 4, 2023**

### **Documents**

*Meeting Minutes*, March 1, 2023  
Budget Overview Review Tool FY24 #2  
Draft 6 Fiscal Year 2024 Comprehensive Budget excel sheet, 3.16.23  
FY24 CIPC Recommendations  
FY24 Budget Projections #2, 3.16.23  
FY24 Personnel Committee Recommendations  
FY24 SCEMS Budget  
Police Department FY24 Budget Sheet  
FY24 Police Budget Summary  
Water Department FY24 Budget worksheet  
FY24 COLA Considerations from surrounding towns  
Gas-EV Comparison chart