

**Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2022
Open Hybrid Session via Zoom
6:00 pm**

The open hybrid session of the Town of Whately Finance Committee was called to order on November 15, 2022 at 6:00 pm by Paul Antaya. Also present were Committee members, Tom Mahar, Jim Kirkendall, Dan Kennedy, and Donna Wiley. Present via Zoom was member Brenda Doherty. Town Administrator Brian Domina and Administrative Assistant Amy Lavallee were present. Library Trustees Bob Smith and Bob Klinger were also present.

1. To review and vote to approve the meeting minutes from April 26, 2022

Motion made to approve the Minutes from April 26, 2022. Motion seconded. All in Favor. Roll Call Vote: Dan-yes, Jim-yes, Brenda-yes, Donna-abstain, Tom-yes, Paul-yes.

2. To discuss the articles for the Special Town Meeting to be held on November 29, 2022

Brian shared with the Committee the warrant articles for the Special Town Meeting. Any changes to the articles requested have to be made on the floor at Town Meeting.

Article 1: The Finance Committee requested that the warrant language be amended to ensure that the proper documents are recorded to protect the Town's interest in the investment. Motion made to accept Article 1 as written. Motion seconded. All in Favor. Roll Call Vote: Dan-yes, Jim-yes, Brenda-yes, Donna-yes, Tom-yes, Paul-yes.

Article 2: Motion made to accept Article 2 as written. Motion seconded. All in Favor. Roll Call Vote: Dan-yes, Jim-yes, Brenda-yes, Donna-yes, Tom-yes, Paul-yes.

Article 3: Motion made to accept Article 3 as written. Motion seconded. All in Favor. Roll Call Vote: Dan-yes, Jim-yes, Brenda-yes, Donna-yes, Tom-yes, Paul-yes.

Article 4: Motion made to accept Article 4 as written. Motion seconded. All in Favor. Roll Call Vote: Dan-yes, Jim-yes, Brenda-yes, Donna-yes, Tom-yes, Paul-yes.

Article 5: Motion made to accept Article 5 as written. Motion seconded. All in Favor. Roll Call Vote: Dan-yes, Jim-yes, Brenda-yes, Donna-yes, Tom-yes, Paul-yes.

Article 6: Motion made to accept Article 6 as written. Motion seconded. All in Favor. Roll Call Vote: Dan-yes, Jim-yes, Brenda-yes, Donna-yes, Tom-yes, Paul-yes.

Article 7: Motion made to accept Article 7 as written. Motion seconded. All in Favor. Roll Call Vote: Dan-yes, Jim-yes, Brenda-yes, Donna-yes, Tom-yes, Paul-yes.

3. **To discuss budget planning for fiscal year 2024**

The Committee discussed continuing Tuesday night meetings in upcoming budget session. Paul discussed the possibility of having Annual Town Meeting later in the year to accommodate the School budgeting process, however all 4 towns in the Union 38 district would have to agree to this as well. Talks with other town's Selectboards and Finance Committees, as well as the School Committee, are ongoing to resolve the issue of school budgets not being submitted in time for review by various Committees.

4. **Items not anticipated**

Tom brought up the difference in Free Cash from FY22 to FY23. Brian stated that one of the differences was the Committee recommended moving monies from Free Cash into various stabilization funds so not as much monies rolled over to the next fiscal year in that account.

Tom questioned the Water Department's usage of Town Highway equipment and employees for water projects and if the Town was being reimbursed for it. Brian stated that it has recently come to his attention that the Water Department does not have meters on any Town Buildings and is not being charged for water usage and speculates that this may be in trade. Donna stated that the Water Commissioners have only raised usage rates one or two times since 1990. Brian stated that the Commissioners have hired a firm to look into usage rates to see if a raise in rates is necessary in order to continue proper services to residents.

Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn at 7:06pm. Motion seconded. All in Favor. Roll Call Vote: Dan-yes, Jim-yes, Brenda-yes, Donna-yes, Tom-yes, Paul-yes.

Next Meeting: TBD

Documents

Meeting Minutes, April 26, 2022

Cruiser Comparisons, Excel Sheet, 2022

Special Town Meeting Warrant, November 29, 2022