

**Finance Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
February 7, 2024  
6:00 pm  
Hybrid Meeting**

Finance Committee Chairperson Paul Antaya opened the meeting at 5:04 pm. Additional Finance Committee members in attendance were Tom Mahar, Jim Kirkendall, Dan Kennedy, Brenda Doherty, Paul Newlin (via Zoom) and JD Ross. Town Administrator Brian Domina was also in attendance.

Tom made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from November 21, 2023. Jim seconded. All in favor. Tom – yes, Paul – yes, JD – yes, Jim – yes, Dan – yes, Brenda – yes, Paul - abstain.

Brian shared with the Committee a Powerpoint presentation on the financial trends for the Town of Whately. Brian discussed the trends in town expenditures and the trends in town revenue. Brian shared with the Committee his concern about the slow down in certified new growth over the past 5 to 6 years and how this is impacting the Town's excess levy capacity. The Town's finances remain strong, but expenditures are increasing due to inflation and labor costs. Brian encouraged the Committee to continue to explore areas for growth and to expand non-property tax revenue. Brian informed the Committee that the Town should receive the first full quarter of excise taxes from the operating marijuana dispensary on State Road. That first quarterly amount will likely be indicative of future quarterly excise tax payments.

Paul discussed the proposed budget planning schedule with the Committee. February 28<sup>th</sup> is tentatively the date for the joint meeting with the school committee and administration to discuss the education budgets. The Committee members indicated that the schedule as proposed worked for them.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 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*