

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE – 2021**

**Members: Paul Antaya (Chair), Roger (Dan) Kennedy, Robert Fydenkevez, Thomas Mahar, James Kirkendall, Fred Baron, Patricia Devine**

Despite the challenges posed by the COVID19 pandemic, the Finance Committee worked diligently over the past four months to develop reasonable budget recommendations for FY22. The Finance Committee is recommending a FY22 Non-Enterprise Fund Operating Budget of \$5,420,670 which represents a 3.23% change from the FY21 budget. The Finance Committee believes that the FY22 budget recommendations as presented will not overburden taxpayers and it will allow for the continuation of services as in past years, plus provide some desperately needed staffing support to assist a number of boards and committees, to catalyze efforts on planning for new growth to keep Whately affordable, and to develop and pursue community projects and grants.

The Finance Committee has reviewed the recommendations of the Capital Improvement Planning Committee and recommends that the capital projects listed in the table below be approved by voters at the Annual Town Meeting.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Name of Department/Facility</b>	<b>Estimated Cost (FY22)</b>
Communications Equipment	Fire & Police Departments	<b>\$21,500</b>
Emergency Generator	Town Offices	<b>\$30,000</b>
Purchase New Snow Plow	Highway Department	<b>\$12,000</b>
Purchase New Commercial Oven	Whately Elementary School	<b>\$21,000</b>
Milling and Resurfacing of Driveway and Parking Lot	Whately Elementary School	<b>\$74,000</b>
Install New Tile Flooring	Whately Elementary School	<b>\$20,000</b>
Interior & Exterior Painting & Repairs	Police Station	<b>\$5,000</b>
Upgrades to Westbrook Road Pumping Station	Westbrook Road Pumping Station	<b>\$5,000</b>

The Finance Committee voted to accept the Personnel Committee's recommendation of a 2.0% cost of living adjustment for Town employees. The cost-of-living adjustment will ensure that the Town remains competitive with other communities and to ensure the Town is paying its valuable employees equitably for their time and commitment to providing our residents with the services they need.

The Finance Committee also voted to recommend that the Town contribute \$20,000 to the Vehicle Stabilization Account and \$25,000 to a newly created Town Buildings Stabilization Account to save for future expenses.

The Finance Committee once again feels that the budget as recommended balances the financial needs of the Town without overburdening our taxpayers.

Respectfully submitted.

Paul Antaya - Whately Finance Committee