

Minutes of the
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
February 10, 2021
6:30 p.m.

Received and Filed
Raina Hulcor
Assistant Town Clerk

Held via Microsoft Meetings online

Present: Darryl Williams, Betsy Rider, Kim Baker, Diane Brzozowski, Sean Barry

MAR 1 2021 AM 11:30

1. School Superintendent Marty McEvoy joined the meeting to report on the current year's budget:
 - There is a projected deficit in the Special Education line of \$76,564
 - There is a projected deficit in Pre-School revenue of \$39,264
 - There may be a surplus in Smith Voc tuition because a student left the district
 - There may be a surplus in Substitute Teacher line
 - There is a projected deficit in the cost of heat due to needing to keep windows open to ensure adequate ventilation during COVID

Darryl Williams asked the superintendent if he could provide a projected FY '22 budget for the schools by early March.

2. A roll-call vote was taken and the following were unanimously approved:
 - A transfer from Finance Reserve of \$16,800 to the Technology line to pay for ongoing IT support from Paragus
 - An increase in the limit for Tax Title expenses from \$25,000 to \$50,000
3. Discussion about FY '22 budget submissions was held:
 - Marlene Michonski reported that this year's certified Free Cash amounts to: \$944,110.
 - Darryl Williams reported that the Highway Department fuel tanks will not be able to be recertified this coming year and so a \$95,000 expenditure may be required to install new ones.
 - Sharon Strzegowski reported that tax collection is at about 94%.
 - Sharon also reported that she asked the Town's financial advisor about the possibility of refinancing the Town's debt. The advisor recommended that the Town seek to do that in Spring 2022 after a clean audit. This year's audit is still negatively affected by the Town's association with Baystate Accounting.
 - Betsy Rider asked that if any new positions were approved, that a written statement be submitted by that department of additional services/projects that would be provided because of the additional assistance.
 - Betsy Rider asked if any increase to the Town's payment of employees' health insurance premiums could be considered.
 - Sean Barry provided an overview of Capital Expenditures being requested.
4. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 22, 2021 in order to begin meetings with Department heads about FY'22 budget requests

Submitted by
Betsy Rider