Minutes of the
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
April 23, 2019
6:30 p.m.

Present: Darryl Williams, Paul Fisher, Betsy Rider
Absent: Diane Brzozowski, Sean Barry

- Minutes of the 4/16/19 meeting were approved.

- Discussion was held about the possibilities for increasing the town's contribution to the cost of health insurance and health expenses. After estimating fixed expenses and raises for salaries, it seemed the town might be able to afford a 2% increase to the 50% it pays toward premiums, as long as participation in the health plan did not increase significantly. In addition, the town could consider funding a third-party administered Health Care Arrangement out of Free Cash each year.

- The Finance Committee recommended to the Select Board that discussion begin in June about raising water/sewer rates so that less money from general taxation goes toward supporting the water/sewer system. The Finance Committee also recommended that the town attempt to reduce the vehicles leased/owned by the town, thereby eliminating leasing, maintenance, and insurance costs. Another suggestion was to review the fee structure for the town’s transfer station.

- In addition, a general discussion was held about strategies for those citizens proposing an override; benefits to all departments would need to be identified, and advantages to the taxpayers would need to be highlighted.

- The Finance Committee reviewed requests from the departments for increases to expenses. The Town Collector/Treasurer’s requests and the Town Administrator’s requests still need to be reviewed. We also need clarification from the Police Department about whether any expenses need to be increased.

- The Finance Committee reviewed possible capital purchases. We agreed that the Inflow/Filtration study needed to be done, and the $13,000 expenditure for ambulance needed to be continued. The Finance Committee asked that the DPW Director research the most efficient way to make a wheelchair accessible van available to the schools – whether it be taken from, or shared with, the Council on Aging or another town or some other method.
• The next meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Emergency Management office on 4/30/19.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.
Submitted by Betsy Rider