

## Minutes of the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee Meeting

This meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:00PM on Tuesday, November 29, 2022 at the Senior Center. Jason Petraitis, John Tripp and Brooke Canada present (along with member of Finance Committee).

Free Cash-Chet said that in the past the BoS would give a run down on every dollar. We have \$300,000.00 left over, Chet wondered what would happen with the fire truck. Can we pay early? Is there a penalty? Fin Comm requested interest rate and penalty. Chet advised making a wise decision on the cost effectiveness.

Mrs. Canada said the Board thought about putting money in Reserve Fund. Shiela LeBlanc said we are looking to purchase diesel fuel and NBEMA needs to update the generator at the school.

Chet questioned the diesel tank, Mr. Tripp explained.

Mr. Petraitis said we need to be careful what we spend, we don't know what the winter will bring, fuel and utility cost increases and school choice. Shiela said she foresees School choice going up next year.

Chet asked how to protect the money, Mr. Petraitis asked about the snow and ice account, Shiela said that account can be deficit spent. Mr. Petraitis said we need to stress on the departments to reduce driving time to necessity only.

Shiela noted that Finance Committee has almost \$100,000 more in the Reserve Fund than last year.

Mr. Petraitis said he's not afraid to leave Free Cash as is, it requires a Town Meeting to move it.

There was a short discussion about the diesel fuel and generator needs.

Chet said Finance Committee needs to get together with the School to work on the budget, Mrs. Canada said that Tim Canada wants tri-board meetings. Mike Zalansky said the School Committee has two Finance Committee liaisons and they'll be setting up a meeting.

Kathy Crevier asked about Article 8 on the STM (to transfer money from Free Cash to BoS Town Counsel), Mr. Petraitis said we are taking no action on this article.

Chet asked about leases at the PD, Shiela said they were paid off in the Spring.

Mike Zalansky brought up unfunded liabilities and said between employee benefits and debt we are 45 million dollars in the red.

Mr. Petraitis said that Sewer construction cost estimates went way up

Sheila LeBlanc said we've been discussing the Employee Handbook and we hope to establish new rules and guidelines by 7/1/23, one change would be that new employees would not get paid out for earned sick time.

Reserve Fund Request: Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to approve a finance committee reserve fund request in the amount of \$997.14 to pay for Town Counsel services for the Planning Board. So voted.

Ashley said that Ethan Melad reached out asking if he could use Town Counsel to ask about Hannaford not paying a \$10,000.00 invoice for trash bags. Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to approve Ethan Melad contacting Town Counsel regarding the Hannaford issue. Discussion: Mr. Petraitis said that Lisa Taylor, Collector, is also having issues with Hannaford paying bills. Should we email Town Counsel for both issues? All in favor of motion? Board members voted NO.

Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to have Ashley contact Town Counsel regarding both Hannaford issues and CC Ethan Melad and Lisa Taylor. So voted.

Discussed Highway/Fire renovations, Mr. Petraitis said that procurement laws must be followed and asked Ashley to email Jason Benoit asking him to get all his estimates and quotes over to TecTon.

There being no further business, at 8:02PM Mr. Tripp moved, and Mrs. Canada seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Barre