

Minutes Holden Finance Committee, April 19, 2023, Senior Center

Members Present: Paul Challenger, Dave White, Chris Lucchesi, Don Graves, Al Berg, Jane Titcomb, Stephanie Adams, Donna Wallace, Marilynn Foley

Also Present: Peter Lukes, Town Manager, John Woodsmall, DPW Director, Gerri Herlihy, Selectman

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M.

Peter reported that the W/S case against the City of Worcester and the DCR is in appeal and the interest on the judgment amount is accruing at \$5,000.00 per day.

The Committee discussed the Recreation Department budget, as there was a concern from the Chairman of the BOS over the level of funding of the field project debt. This led to a discussion of the roles of the Finance Committee and the BOS. Paul will meet with Peter and Anthony for further discussion on roles and responsibilities.

Stephanie reported on the meeting of the Library Trustees. Phillip Warbasse, an historic architect, spoke to the group about the SOCOTEC study of the library windows and made recommendations as to the next step. A motion by Dave 2nd by Stephanie to add \$50,000.00 to the Town Manager Budget for the Library windows projected project was voted in favor 7-2 (opposed Paul, Don).

The Committee continued voting on Department Budgets.

A motion by Al 2nd by Dave to approve the Garage Department Budget \$206,000.00 was voted unanimously.

A motion by Dave 2nd Stephanie to approve the Police Capital Budget \$167,000.00 was voted unanimously.

A motion by Dave 2nd by Don to defer the Deputy Fire Chief's vehicle from the Fire Capital Budget, changing the budget number to \$1,465,000.00 was voted in favor 6-3 (opposed Paul, Marilynn, Donna).

A motion by Al 2nd by Stephanie to approve the DPW Engineering Capital Budget \$70,000.00 was voted unanimously.

A motion by Al 2nd by Donna to approve the DPW Highway Division Capital Budget \$1,125,739.00 was voted unanimously.

A motion by Don 2nd by Chris to amend the DPW Highway Division Capital Budget to \$1,110,739.00 (eliminate the tag along trailer and the backhoe) was passed 6-3 (opposed Paul, Don, Marilynn).

A motion by Al 2nd by Donna to approve the Buildings and Grounds Capital Budget \$1,105,000 (removing the \$85,000.00 truck) was voted unanimously.

A motion by Dave 2nd by Donna to approve the Library Capital Budget \$5,000.00 was voted

unanimously.

A motion by Don 2nd by Donna eliminate the Senior Center Capital Budget \$9,700.00 was voted unanimously.

A motion by Dave 2nd by Al to approve a Senior Center Capital Budget of \$10,000.00 for a storage unit was defeated 4-5 (opposed Paul, Jane, Don, Donna, Marilyn)

A motion by Dave 2nd by Stephanie to approve the W/S Capital Budget \$2,334,000.00 was voted unanimously.

A motion by Dave 2nd by Al to approve the Cable TV Capital Budget \$30,000.00 was voted unanimously.

A motion by Dave 2nd by Al to approve the Recreation Capital Budget \$70,000.00 was voted unanimously.

A motion by Don 2nd by Chris to approve \$100,000.00 from the Open Space Stabilization Fund toward the purchase of Spring Ledge Farm was voted unanimously.

Paul reported that he had met with the WRSD Business Manager. The WRSD has closed the books on F/Y21 and the audit is complete, and will soon close the books on F/Y22. The District will pass on any available E&D to the Towns when their E&D is approved by the state.

A motion by Al 2nd by Dave to use free cash \$1,273,334.00 to offset the F/Y 24 tax rate was voted unanimously.

A motion Dave 2nd by Donna that \$1,180,000.00 be used to purchase Spring Ledge Farm from the Stabilization Fund, which sum is to be reimbursed by the other contractually obligated parties to the purchase, was voted in favor 8-1 (opposed Jane).

A motion by Stephanie 2nd by Al to transfer \$50,000.00 from the Free cash to the DPW Depreciation Fund was voted unanimously.

A motion by Stephanie 2nd by Chris to approve the minutes of April 12, 2023 was voted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilynn Foley, Clerk