

Minutes Holden Finance Committee, April 26, 2023, Senior Center

Members Present: Paul Challenger, Dave White, Chris Lucchesi, Don Graves, Jane Titcomb, Al Berg, Donna Wallace, Marilyn Foley  
Member Absent: Stephanie Adams  
Also Present: Peter Lukes, Town Manager

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

Peter reported that the DOR informed him that the Recreation Fund cannot contribute to pay down the debt for new fields until the fields are ready to be used and generating revenue for the Recreation Department. A motion by Marilyn 2<sup>nd</sup> by Donna for a revised Recreation budget \$1,113,867.00 was voted in favor 7-1 (opposed Al).

A motion by Marilyn 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave for a revised Montachusett Vocational Budget and Out of district Vocational students \$1,653,742.00 was voted unanimously.

A motion by Donna 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jane to approve a \$20,000.00 spending limit for the Senior Center Revolving Fund, which is used for tracking the Council on Aging deposits and expenditures was voted unanimously.

A motion by Chris 2<sup>nd</sup> by Don to rescind the remaining debt borrowing \$220,000.00 from 2018 for the Jefferson water tank was voted unanimously.

The Committee discussed ways to lower the tax burden for the taxpayers. A motion by Dave 2<sup>nd</sup> by Al to use free cash in the amount of \$1,415,089.00 for that purpose was voted unanimously. This amount replaces any previous amounts voted for free cash usage for this purpose.

Peter reported that the Town's new Health Insurance plan has been well received by town employees, and may result in about \$50,000.00 in savings in the coming year. It is too early to make a change to the FY24 budget because the employees have not yet committed to using the new plan.

The Committee discussed again the WRSD Budget. We are required by law to fund the Assessment that is sent to us. The Town has no input or oversight of the District, except through School Committee.

A motion by Chris 2<sup>nd</sup> by Al to reduce the deposit to the General Stabilization Fund by \$50,000.00 to further reduce the tax rate was passed 5-3 (opposed, Paul, Don, Marilyn).

A motion by Chris 2<sup>nd</sup> by Donna to amend the previous motion on free cash and now use free cash in the amount of \$1,465,089.00 was voted unanimously.

The minutes of the April 19, 2023 meeting were reviewed, amended slightly and then approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35. P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,