

Minutes Holden Finance Committee, October 4, 2023, Senior Center

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

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

Paul reported that Peter will have all the information and associated costs on the proposed lease of a modular classroom for Dawson School for our meeting on October 11, 2023, in preparation for the October 16, 2023 Special Town Meeting.

Al has been working on information on preliminary budget estimating and a contingency chart on how much the budget can go up before there would be a need for a prop 2 ½ override. The Committee discussed the information and the variables that go into forming a budget (free cash, Cherry Sheet (basically the same year to year), changes in revenue, new growth, excise tax estimates, ambulance revenue estimates).

The Committee discussed having someone attend a WRSDC Business and Finance Committee meeting to present information as to what the town can afford and provide guidance for their budget deliberations and also to give the towns a 5 to 10 year plan for facility needs for the towns to also plan for future budgets. Hopefully these meetings will lead to better communication and understanding in the future

A motion by Dave 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chris to have Paul prepare a message to the WRSD Superintendent and the Town Manager to discuss limits for budget increases was voted unanimously. Paul will work with Al on the details to be conveyed.

Dave reminded the Committee that about 5 years ago there was a town facilities study and also a population study completed. This information should be communicated to new people that join committees and new hires in the town and WRSD.

The Committee discussed the possibility of the Town having a Facilities Manager position.

The Committee reviewed the budget goals from last year, but did not make any changes, and will look at them again in the future.

Dave reported on the progress of the Dawson Recreational Complex and the All Inclusive Playground projects. All project proposals have realized increased costs and the Committees are reviewing ways to reduce costs. Additional funding may be necessary at a future town meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,