

Minutes Holden Finance Committee, March 13, 2024, Senior Center
Department of Public Works and Water Sewer Budgets F/Y 25

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

Member Absent: Dave White

Also Present: Peter Lukes, Town Manager, John Woodsmall, DPW Director, Chris DeMoranville, Supervisor of Operations, John Whipple, Highway Forman, Joseph Kenny, W/S Superintendent, Tim Sherblom, Police Chief

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

Paul reported on the meeting he had with Peter and Selectman Anthony Renzoni on March 11, 2024 concerning the F/Y25 Budget. They discussed options should the Town need to place an override question on the annual TM warrant or a capital exclusion. The WRHS excluded debt declined \$639,000.00. The Town could use a capital exclusion of a similar amount to pay for capital items without impacting the taxpayer. Paul will attend the BOS meeting on Monday, March 18 for further discussion with them.

It was decided that the FinCom needed an additional meeting to discuss the details of a possible capital exclusion, as there were lots of questions, and it was not on tonight's agenda. Paul will schedule the meeting and let us know.

John presented the F/Y 25 DPW Budget to the Committee and answered questions. The new position of Operations Project Manager was discussed as to the different functions of what that position would be. The FinCom had suggested a Facility Manager position be added, so there was extensive discussion as to why a different role is being proposed. Other Budgets within the DPW (Engineering, Highway, Mechanics, Garage and Buildings & Grounds) were reviewed.

Peter reported that the bids for the playing fields and playground at 18 Industrial Drive, connecting to the Dawson recreation area, were opened. The lowest bid was \$7,400,000.00 for the construction piece of the project. There were 8 bidders for the project. The estimate for the library window restoration project was refined to be \$390,000.00, significantly lower than previously thought. The all-inclusive playground planned behind the HMLD building is on hold for now.

The discussion of DPW capital and the W/S Budget will be next week on March 20.

A motion by Donna 2nd by Al to approve the minutes of March 6, 2024 were voted unanimously.

A motion by Stephanie 2nd by Chris to approve the minutes of March 7, 2024 were voted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilynn Foley, Clerk