

**Finance  
Committee  
MEETING  
MINUTES**

**May 4, 2023**

Nipmuc High School – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Meeting Room

Paul Flaherty, Stephen Bern, Nick Ensko, Rick McGuire and Shawn Craig;  
Joe Laydon, Mike Penko, Katherine Robertson, Bill Taylor, Marcella Stasa  
and Scott Heim

1 The Finance Committee meeting was opened at 6:05 pm by Paul Flaherty.

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3 **Review/approve year end transfers MGL c.44 Section 33B:** Mr. Flaherty opened the  
4 discussion by explaining the process and provided an overview of the file that was sent around  
5 that summarized the proposed seven (7) transfers with a total transfer value of \$83,000. Joe  
6 Laydon then discussed the details surrounding the transfers. Transfers 1, 2, 3 and 7 had to do  
7 with the work completed by Strategic Municipal Services. This company assisted with Treasurer  
8 and other duties due to the personnel turnover that took place between February 2022 and  
9 October 2022. The items being addressed are all after July 1, 2022. The prior activities were  
10 taken care of. Mr. Laydon answered a few questions about process and concerns about how this  
11 happened. This was also the same time that Mr. Laydon was transitioning into his new role as  
12 Town Manager. Mr. Laydon then provided details for the proposed Police and Fire transfers.

13  
14 Motion to approve the seven (7) end of year transfers in the amount of \$83,000 was made by  
15 Nick Ensko, seconded by Rick McGuire. Motion was unanimous of members present (Shawn  
16 Craig had not yet arrived).

17  
18 **Approve minutes:** Finance Committee meeting minutes for March 28, 2023 were distributed to  
19 the members for review. Motion to approve the meeting minutes as written was made by Shawn  
20 Craig, seconded by Rick McGuire. Motion was unanimous approval by roll call vote.

21  
22 **Discuss/vote recommendation on ATM Article 21 – Warren Brook Bridge Robertson**  
23 **Property:** Stephen Bern opened the discussion by explaining to the article proponents that the  
24 Finance Committee had not yet voted on this Article due to some outstanding questions and  
25 concerns. At the top of the list was the status of the grant and the uncertainty of total cost of the  
26 bridge project. The Finance Committee explained their understanding that the 80% grant that  
27 was applied for was based on a cost assumption of approximately \$100,000. This means that the  
28 grant would provide 80% reimbursement or \$80,000. However, if the article is for \$120,000 and  
29 the grant provides \$80,000, how can we be sure that the bridge project doesn't become a  
30 \$200,000 project. Mr. Penko and Mr. Taylor replied that the highest cost of the bridge would be  
31 \$120,000 (on the high end). They expected to hear about the grant award by the end of June.

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33 Motion to approve the Article 21 for \$120,000 was made by Rick McGuire, seconded by Shawn  
34 Craig. Motion was majority vote 4-1.

35  
36 Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 pm by Nick Ensko, seconded by Rick McGuire. Motion  
37 was unanimous approval by roll call vote.

38  
39 Respectfully submitted,  
40 Stephen M. Bern, co-chair of the Finance Committee