

**Finance
Committee
MEETING
MINUTES**

October 4, 2022

Upton Town Hall – Room 203

Paul Flaherty, Stephen Bern, Nick Ensko, Shawn Craig (virtual), Rick McGuire (virtual)
Guests (noted below)

This was a joint meeting taking place during the scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting.

The Finance Committee meeting was opened at 7:25 pm by Paul Flaherty.

Attendees for the meeting included:

In Person: Brett Simas, Maureen Dwinnell, Steve Matellian, Joe Laydon, Sandra Hakela, Michael Bradley, Michael Marchand and Dennis Westgate

Online: Ed Bergmann, Michael Penko, Diane Tiernan, Laurie Wooden, Bill Taylor, Lyn Hagerty and Dan Lazarz

Discussion to review meeting minutes was deferred to next meeting.

In coordination with Select Board Chair Brett Simas, review of the November 1, 2022 Special Town Meeting Warrant was initiated.

Article 1 was presented and discussed by Dennis Westgate. Mr. Westgate presented an overview of the Grove Street Bridge project. This will likely be a borrow. The project will include a footbridge. Traffic flow during construction was discussed as well as the timing of the article versus applying for grant funding options (up to \$500k). Can ARPA funds be utilized? Design is going to be done by Weston Sampson. The total cost is expected to be about \$1.5M with construction taking place in 2023. Comparison made to the recent Fowler St bridge work.

Article 5 was presented and discussed by Michael Bradley. Mr. Bradley explained that the requested increase was due to vehicle price as well as the additional equipment. The Approved Annual Town Meeting purchase was for \$45K. High mileage for multiple vehicles was noted.

Article 6 was presented and discussed by Michael Bradley. Mr Bradley explained that the Police Department is expected to have four (4) vacancies and this funding would cover the costs for equipment and academy training.

Article 7 was presented and discussed by Michael Bradley, with input from Michael Marchand. This vehicle will replace the current Chief vehicle. The vehicle is expected to be an SUV, likely a Ford or Chevrolet model.

Article 8 was presented and discussed by Michael Bradley, with input from Michael Marchand. This stretcher will be used to update the current ambulance. The stretcher in that vehicle is a 2008 model with a useful life of up to 10 years. The new equipment will cut down or eliminate injuries to first responder and patients. A Federal Grant has been applied for and a decision is expected within six weeks. If the Grant is awarded, the Article would be passed over.

Article 9 was discussed as an increase for the Approved Annual Town Meeting Article. The cost of the van has increased and was not properly presented at the Annual Town Meeting. This

Article is to approve up to an additional \$40k for the purchase of a “12+2” van. 12 passenger plus 2 handicap passenger van for the Senior Center. The additional funding could be as low as \$26k depending on when we are able to place the order.

Article 11 was presented and discussed by Michael Penko, with input from Bill Taylor and Ed Bergmann. This Article would utilize CPA funds for a 2 year study of water quality and pond management. Similar study was completed by the town of Concord in 2013. No quote, estimate or scope of work has been provided. The true cost of the study is to be determined. Discussion among the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee about lack of detail and whether it was necessary. No vote for CPA yet.

No further discussion or vote by the Finance Committee members.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Nick Ensko, seconded by Stephen Bern. Motion was unanimous approval by those present.

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