

Finance Committee MEETING MINUTES

March 29, 2021

Virtually

Paul Flaherty, Rick McGuire, Stephen Bern, Shawn Craig, Nick Ensko, Kelly McElreath, Derek Brindisi, Jerome Owcarzak, Sandra Hakala, Phil DeZutter, Dan Lazars

1 The meeting was opened at 6:02 pm virtually.

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3 Upon motion of Rick McGuire, seconded by Nick Ensko, it was unanimously approved by roll
4 call vote to approve the minutes from 2/24/21, 3/11/21 and 3/17/21.

5
6 Phil DeZutter, MURSD School Committee member, was present to explain ‘minimum local
7 contribution’ required by the Department of Education funding formula. Highlights of the
8 presentation include:

- 9 • EQV – property value – based on valuations done every two years
- 10 • Personal income from DOR
- 11 • Municipal Revenue Growth Factor (MRGF)
- 12 • % of what the Foundation Budget
- 13 • The MLD went down in Mendon for Fy22 since income went down 1.5%
- 14 • Upton is at target but it was noted the target moves each year
- 15 • State asked communities to pay more when not at target share.
- 16 • 150 communities out of the 351 that are at the 82.5% target share
- 17 • DOR expects Town to increase their school budget based on what increase is
- 18 • It was noted Town has no control of the MLC
- 19 • MURSD will be putting together a flyer to help explain this to the voters

20
21 Shawn Craig asked questions of Phil DeZutter in regards to ‘needing an override every 5 years.
22 Phil stated the increases to district needs to keep pace with the MRGF for Upton. Phil noted we
23 are getting closer to the top percentage but target share will continue to increase. State believes
24 if the Town does better, more funds should be going to the schools

25
26 Phil DeZutter stated there are not any new updates in regards to MURSD budget.

27
28 Paul Flaherty stated there is a new draft warrant dated 3/25 since the BOS need to reopen the
29 warrant due to override article. Paul noted Article 18 was replaced to put land located off of
30 Westboro Rd under BOS control from tax title. Article 12F was also added for a memorial bench
31 for Barbara Burke from CPC. Lastly there are 2 additional citizen petitions.

32
33 Paul Flaherty asked the preference of the Committee for including wages as part of the Finance
34 Committee report. Shawn Craig and Nick Ensko agreed not to put them in. Rick McGuire
35 wanted to ensure the numbers matched up. Steve Bern asked where a resident would find info.
36 Derek Brindisi noted individual salaries are listed in the Town Manager Budget report
37 published in January on the website. Also, Derek commented Town Meeting is the legislature
38 role and executive role determines the salaries. Steve Bern questioned about having January info
39 available if a questioned is asked about salaries. Steve is stating the salaries/wages is supporting
40 documentation. It was noted there are a handful of residents who would want that information

but majority of town meeting voters want the summary. Sense of the Committee is not to show wages.

Review of the updated warrant:

Upon motion of Nick Ensko, seconded by Rick McGuire, for favorable action for \$2,000 for Article 12f. Unanimously approved by rollcall vote.

Upon motion of Nick Ensko, seconded by Rick McGuire, for favorable action for Article 18. Unanimously approved by rollcall vote.

Upon motion of Nick Ensko, seconded by Rick McGuire, for favorable action for Article 13. Unanimously approved by rollcall vote.

Upon motion of Nick Ensko, seconded by Shawn Craig, for unfavorable action for Article 27. Unanimously approved by rollcall vote.

Upon motion of Nick Ensko, seconded by Steve Bern, for unfavorable action for Article 26. Majority (4-1) approved by rollcall vote.

Upon motion of Nick Ensko, seconded by Steve Bern, for favorable action for Article 11A. Majority (3-1, abstain by SC) approved by rollcall vote.

Upon motion of Nick Ensko, seconded by Steve Bern, for favorable action for Article 11B. Majority (3-1, abstain by SC) approved by rollcall vote.

Upon motion of Nick Ensko, seconded by Steve Bern, for favorable action for Article 12A. Majority (4-0, abstain by SC) approved by rollcall vote.

Upon motion of Nick Ensko, seconded by Rick McGuire, for favorable action for Article 9. Majority (4-0) approved by rollcall vote.

It was determined next meeting on April 5, 2021.

Adjourn at 9:35 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly A. McElreath