

Finance
Committee
**MEETING
MINUTES**

May 7, 2020 – joint with Board of Selectmen
Virtual Meeting

Paul Flaherty, Rick McGuire, Nick Ensko, Jonathan Calianos
Stephen Matellian, Brett Simas Maureen Dwinnell, Derek Brindisi, Sandy
Hakala and members of the Community

The meeting was opened at 7:00 pm by Paul Flaherty.

Stephen Matellian, Board of Selectmen Chair made the following statement:

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order concerning imposition on strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, meetings in the Town of Upton will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. We will strive to provide access to such meetings via a link to call in, or other similar option. In the event we are unable to accommodate the same, despite best efforts, we will post recorded sessions of the meeting as soon as possible following the same.

Derek Brindisi discussed how the district recertified the budget and the challenges of having a town meeting in this environment with an override article. Noted to have an override question of \$260,000 to include BVT funding is 1st option.

Derek discussed our reserves free cash over 700,000 with 300,000 committed and over 2M in stabilization thus transferring the \$260K from reserve is 2nd option. The 3rd option would be to look at current FY21 budget. Derek has concerns about 3rd option because if we start to cut, would be difficult to deal with more cuts in the fall. He noted there is a current spending and hiring freeze.

9C cuts was detailed and how it could affect Upton if made by Governor in the fall.

Brett Simas – looking to take override off the table and trying to make cuts now is difficult. He is in favor of using reserve funds. Maureen agrees with Brett and does not want to make cuts at this time.

Stephan Matellian asked if other BOS is willing to look at current operating budget. Current increase of \$500,000 over FY20.

Paul Flaherty does not want to look at cuts at this point. Discussed the handout and the fact school documents are on the website.

Paul Flaherty states one place to look at is road money but it would put a deficiency in the road plan and is not recommended. If monies are taken from stabilization it will put budget in a deficit of \$260K for FY22. Stabilization is for rainy day fund and it is pouring outside. May need more rainy-day funds next year but this is today. Paul Flaherty noted a previous override approved for the school has been collected on the Town side for the last 8 years. Recommending funds be taken from stabilization.

Jonathan Calianos agrees with all views. Concerned there is was no funding to stabilization for this year. He is thinking we may need stabilization in the future and discussed the options of

taking the funding from road article. Town has spent over \$500k last year and another \$500k for this year. Costs should be cheaper this year. Jonathan wonders why we are not taking some of the road money to solve the school issue. He discussed if it was possible to spend \$900k of road work can be done this year. He noted there is a possibility to look at free cash as well with our balance.

Stephen Matellian stated over the last 6-8 years, supplemental money for roads.

Rick McGuire is concerned about unemployment and what the future will hold. He is willing to look at stabilization and/or road funds. Rick noted a 2/3 vote will be needed for stabilization.

Shawn Craig inquired what would happen if 2/3 does not pass, what is back up plan. It was noted Free cash could also be used to fund the schools. If funds are used from stabilization would like to see it replenished.

Discussion that if stabilization does not pass, deficit would also be reviewed in November.

Derek Brindisi stated he has encouraged the Town adopt the DLS best practices to meet the goal of having stabilization of 10% of budget. Upton has worked to do that. Thus, we have those monies for recession and not have to cut services such as police officers. Recommends to stabilization first. This gives us flexibility for cuts in the operational budget in the fall. Road money is available however we could also look at OPEB for funding.

Paul Flaherty discussed the history of the school stabilization account that was rolled into the Town's general stabilization. Transferring the monies from that fund keeps the promise made.

Nick Ensko should take override off the table and does not like the idea of taking from roads. He recommends taking the funds from stabilization.

Maureen reiterated her support for stabilization. Brett acknowledged the idea of the road monies but residents look at roads has making progress and it is uncertain what the future will hold. He is still recommending stabilization.

Paul Flaherty move to recommend transfer 260k from stabilization for education/RM seconded.

Roll Call Vote:	Paul Flaherty	Aye
	Jonathan Calianos	Aye
	Rick McGuire	Aye
	Shawn Craig	Aye
	Nick Ensko	Aye

It was note ballots have been printed and new ballots would need to be printed. It was motioned and seconded to remove the override question.

Motion to adjourn at 8:06 pm

Roll Call Vote:	Paul Flaherty	Aye
	Jonathan Calianos	Aye
	Rick McGuire	Aye

89	Shawn Craig	Aye
90	Nick Ensko	Aye
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92	Next meeting to be determined	
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97	Respectfully submitted,	
98	Kelly A. McElreath	