



Town of Harvard
Finance Committee
Minutes for January 15, 2020

Location: Upper Town Hall Meeting Room - 13 Ayer Rd

Present: Don Ludwig (chair), John Seeley, Mark Buell, Jennifer Finch

Absent: Richard Fellows, Siko Sikochi, Ray Marchia

Others: Tim Bragan - Town Administrator

Don Ludwig (chair) called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

Minutes for approval:

Minutes of Dec 4, 2019 approved as amended on a motion from John/Mark (4:0)

Public Commentary: None

The Agricultural Commission chair Kerri Green, Planning Board Chair Erin McBee, and Director of Community and Economic Development Chris Ryan were invited to discuss their budgets.

Supporting Document 1: Excerpt from 2002 Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRCP) Harvard Build-Out study.

Supporting Document 2: The True Cost of Growth - article by Chris Ryan

Chris Ryan discussed several grants that are in different stages of the grant process. The MVP grant applied for last year - which we should hear about in the next week or two. The COCS study, and how it would apply to the Ag Commission's request.

The Finance Committee recommended that the Cost of Community Services Study (COCS) and potentially overlapping District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) be moved into small warrant articles and removed from the Ag Commission's budget. Bringing Ag's budget request down to \$11,000 from \$26,000.

CPIC supports the \$37,000 Ayer Road Market Study and Fiscal Impact Analysis.

Land Use boards are likely going to share one computer to use GIS, but are requesting training. This was submitted in their budget.

Town Administrator's report: Tim Bragan reports that next week's FinCom meeting will have the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Department of Public Works Director Tim Kilhart present to discuss their budgets.

The School Department's answers to FinCom's and the Select Board's questions are due back by Jan 22 and we will be meeting with them on Jan 29.

Several more errors on their budget were discovered and Jennifer will email Linda Dwight and Aziz Aghayev to inform them.

Liaison Reports: John suggested that the FinCom book spotlight be the Hildreth House Phase 2 plan. He will contact Debbie Thompson for the Council on Aging (COA) to discuss.

Other business: Don will email the rating chart to the committee members.

Future agenda items: FinCom Rating Chart. Debt ceiling discussion, scheduled with Lori on Jan 22.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 8:18pm

Supporting documents (2 Total):

1. Excerpt from 2002 Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRCP) Harvard Build-Out study.
2. The True Cost of Growth - article by Christopher Ryan

Upcoming meetings:

Jan 22, 2020 7pm - Upper Town Hall Meeting Room

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Finch