



Town of Harvard
Finance Committee
Minutes for April 15, 2020

The Finance Committee Regular Meeting was held virtually in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L.c.30A. S.20.

Present: Don Ludwig (chair), John Seeley, Mark Buell, Richard Fellows, Jennifer Finch, Ray Marchica, Siko Sikochi.

Absent: N/A

Others: Tim Bragan - Town Administrator, Marie Sobalvarro - Assistant Town Administrator/HR Director.

Don Ludwig (chair) called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

No minutes presented for approval, Jennifer to follow up.

Public Commentary: None.

Town Administrator's report: Tim Bragan reports:

- State legislature is still trying to figure out the budget, not expecting one until Aug or Sept. Preliminary estimates of revenue loss in the \$4.6B - \$6.2B range.
- 20% across the board in state aid Harvard receives would be about \$800k. Harvard will set a budget in June and adjust as needed, the State can go to 1/12 budget.
- There has as of yet been no guidance on how to have town meetings. Inside far apart? Outside?
- Our original budget had a \$100k buffer in the state aid line.
- Local revenue is ok so far, Lori is checking weekly.
- The next Select Board meeting, FinCom is officially presenting their budget to the Select Board. The School Committee will be there.
- Recommended to Select Board chair Alice von Loesecke they create a budget committee or task force for the financial picture going forward. Not just the \$320k override, but \$600k-\$800k. How are the cuts done. This isn't a one year consideration. Jennifer and Dick maybe represent FinCom?
- School considering paying the bus contract despite not receiving services. Linda is discussing re-negotiating the contract. Tim has given her all the laws about it. Our contract is done per mile. Is MassDev paying for the bus to Devens?
- The Stabilization fund is at around \$1.3M
- Special Town Meeting is set for Oct 17, 2020.

Liaison Reports: Don will update the committee if there is any news out of the School Building Committee meeting on Apr 18, 2020.
Jennifer will update the committee after the School Budget Subcommittee meeting on Apr 16, 2020.

Future agenda items: None

Adjournment:
Meeting adjourned at 7:44pm

Supporting documents (NONE):

Upcoming meetings:
To be determined.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Finch