



Town of Harvard
Finance Committee
Minutes for August 12, 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, Eric Ward

Absent:

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

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

Minutes for approval: The minutes of the July 13, 2020 meeting were approved as amended, unanimously and by roll call: Ludwig - aye, Seeley - aye, Buell - aye, Fellows - aye, Finch - aye, Marchica - aye. (5:0)

Public Commentary: None

Town Administrator's report and meeting business:

The state legislature and Governor Baker have agreed to level fund Unrestricted General Government Aid (UGGA - also known as lottery), as well as level funding Chapter 70 Aid (public schools) at the FY 2020 Cherry Sheet levels. Other aid has not been discussed, but we are hopeful that they will be level funded as well.

A draft warrant will be going to the Select Board on Sept 1, to be signed Sept 15.

After discussion between the Select Board and Police Chief Denmark, the police position will remain funded, but the police cruiser would be cut from the departmental budget.

Local revenue receipts for last year were \$700k above the FY20 amount. \$400k+ was from interest income from the new school building project, a one time revenue boost at this level.

With the adjustments to insurance, police overtime reduction, overlay reduction, we are anticipating a small surplus for FY21. Tim recommends putting the ~\$26k merit pay for hourly staff back into the budget, as well as putting \$10k back into the Tree Warden's budget.

COLA for this year is 1.7%.

Tim will send out documentation before the next meeting.

Eric Ward was welcomed as the new Clerk, to Jennifer's relief.

Mark moved and Dick seconded that Don Ludwig remain chair, and Jennifer Finch become vice chair.

VOTE: Ludwig - aye, Seeley - aye, Buell - aye, Fellows - aye, Finch aye, Marchica - aye. (5:0)

Eric accepted the Planning Board Liaison role. Current liaisons:

Ambulance (HAS): Dick

Board of Health (BoH): Ray

Council on Aging (COA): John

Conservation Commission (ConCom): Dick

Capital Planning and Investment Committee (CPIC): John

Community Preservation Commission (CPC): Dick

Department of Public Works (DPW): John

Fire Dept: Dick

Historic Commission: Ray

Mass Affordable Housing Trust (MAHT): None

Monty Tech: None

Parks and Recreation (P&R): Jennifer

Personnel Board: Don

Planning Board: Eric

Police: Dick

School Building Committee (SBC): Don

Select Board: Don

School Committee: Jennifer

Other business: Mark has created a living document Finance Committee Knowledgebase. Please take a look at it and get edits to him. This will be on-going.

Future agenda items: Discuss budget cut adjustments at next meeting, specifically Merit Pay and Tree Warden budget. Tim will send out budget documents before the next meeting.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Supporting documents (0 Total):

Upcoming meetings:

Aug 19, 2020 - 7:00pm - zoom link will be posted in agenda.

Sept 9, 2020 - 7:00pm - zoom link will be posted in agenda.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Finch