

TOWN OF FREETOWN

Finance Committee

3 North Main Street / PO Box 438

Assonet, MA 02702-0438

PHONE: 508-644-2201; FAX: 508-644-3342

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FREETOWN TOWN CLERK  
2022 APR -7 PM 2:07

Minutes of

MEETING: 6:00 PM Wednesday, March 2, 2022

Remote meeting via Zoom

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Chair Gary Martin called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

*Pursuant to Governor Baker's June 16, 2021, Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, sec. 18, this meeting of the Freetown Finance Committee will be conducted via remote participation. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real-time, via technological means. A recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of the proceedings will be posted to the Town's YouTube Channel and/or the Town of Freetown Website (freetownma.gov).*

Present: Chair Gary Martin, Emily-Anne Dors, Kent Wilkins, Bob Alderson, Margaret French, Christine Dupras and Kim Johnson, Recording Clerk.

Excused: Katie Calheta.

1. Minutes from 2/9/22.

Bob motioned to accept the minutes from 2/9/22, seconded by Kent. Roll call vote: Margaret French – yes, Kent Wilkins – yes, Christine Dupras – yes, Bob Alderson – yes, Emily-Anne Dors – yes, and Gary Martin – yes. Vote was 6-0-0.

2. Transfer request from Town Administration for \$12,562.00 from the Reserve Fund to Management Info Systems for information technology support services, internet expense, and professional/technical services – Gary said that the explanation was unforeseen hardware issues including no firewall at the library, set up of COVID laptops, new server installation at the Town Hall, Microsoft Office license price increase and IT support services. The balance in the account is \$3,497.

Christine would like to see a breakdown of these expenses, and she's questioning why they are setting up COVID laptops at this time, and how much does the server installation cost. There was some discussion about getting a breakdown from Town Administration and if they are estimates or real costs. Margaret is questioning the \$8,000.00 deficit and where it is coming from. It was suggested that Deb come to a meeting to explain the numbers and answer questions from the Finance Committee.

Bob motioned to approve \$4,562., which is \$3,987 plus the \$575., with the stipulation that Deb comes to the next meeting, to explain the rest of the request, seconded by Margaret. Roll call vote: Margaret French – yes, Kent Wilkins – yes, Christine Dupras – yes, Bob Alderson – yes, Emily-Anne Dors – yes, and Gary Martin – yes. Vote was unanimous. 6-0-0.

3. Naming a Finance Committee member to represent us on the By-Law Review Committee – Gary said that Christine has been the representative and he asked her if she is willing to continue and she said she would unless someone else wants to do it, they can. The whole committee supports Christine remaining on the By-Law Review Committee.

4. Update from Kent, Bob, and Margaret on what the COA Building Sub-Committee has been discussing – Margaret said there was a meeting and there was a discussion and a vote to approve doing a joint building which will be Council on Aging (COA) Building and a Library. The two committees will be disbanded and there will be a new committee. Kent thinks the money will be too out of sight for this building. Bob's concern is that if it is done jointly and if it gets shut down then the Council on Aging loses out. There was a discussion about the joint COA and Library building.

Bob motioned to adjourn at 6:47 PM, seconded by Christine. Roll call vote: Kent Wilkins – yes, Margaret French – yes, Christine Dupras – yes, Bob Alderson – yes, Emily-Anne Dors – yes and Gary Martin – yes. Vote was unanimous. 6-0-0.

Respectfully submitted by Kim Johnson