

Town of Freetown  
Finance Committee  
Wednesday, April 19, 2023

---

Meeting called to order: 6:18 PM

Present: Margaret French, Katie Calheta, Bob Alderson, George Grunwald Emily  
Anne Dors (Remote – in person at 6:32 PM)

Excused: Christine Dupras, Kent Wilkins

1. Restructuring the Finance Committee
  - a. Margaret French nominated as Chair – George Grunwald, seconded – Katie Calheta.  
4-0-1 - Motion Passes
  - b. Christine Dupras nominated as Vice Chair – Katie Calheta, seconded – George Grunwald  
4-0-1 - Motion Passes
2. Meeting minutes: 01/26/23  
Motion to approve: Bob Alderson, seconded – Emily Anne Dors  
3 – 0 – 2: Motion passes
3. Meeting Minutes: 02/22/2023
  - a. Motion to approve: Katie Calheta, seconded – Bob Alderson
  - b. 4 – 0 – 1 - Motion Passes
4. Update on major town projects
  - a. Fire Station addition  
The OPM has been hired. The architect will be hired. There are 2 articles on the warrant to fund the project
  - b. Library/COA building  
The project is slowly moving forward. The library is conducting a study to see if we will qualify for a state grant to fund approximately 50% of the library portion of the building.
  - c. COA pods

There is an article on the warrant to repurpose some of the money earmarked for the COA to purchase 2 pods to be installed as a temporary addition to the current COA.

d. Regional School budget

The school has presented their budget. Overall the increase is significant, however, they are using other monies (E & D etc) to fund part of the budget. There will be a scheduled regional fin comm meeting on April 25

e. South Main St bridge

There is a crack in the middle of the bridge. Repairs made in 2018 designed to last approximately 8 – 10 years. Possible repairs could be a replacement or an overlay. The town is currently investigating possible grants.

f. Assonet 4 corners

There is an article on the warrant to fund an engineering study on Assonet 4 corners.

5. Review of town budgets.

a. The omnibus was reviewed and discussed. The following departments were chosen to present their budgets at the joint Board of Selectman and Finance Committee meetings on 4/26 and 5/3

- i. Police
- ii. Fire
- iii. Building
- iv. Highway
- v. Town Clerk
- vi. Board of Health
- vii. Library
- viii. Animal Control

Motion to adjourn: Emily Anne Dors – Seconded – George Grunwald

5 –0 – 0 : Motion to Approve

Meeting adjourned: 8:33 PM