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TOWN OF FREETOWN

Finance Committee

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Minutes of

MEETING: 5:30 PM Tuesday, August 31, 2021

Freetown Police Station, 15 Memorial Dr, East Freetown

Chair Gary Martin called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

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

Gary welcomed Kim Johnson as the new Recording Clerk. Bob motioned to authorize Gary Martin to sign Kim Johnson's payroll, seconded by Kent. Vote was unanimous.

Bob motioned to accept the minutes from June 24, 2021, and July 13, 2021, as written, seconded by Kent. Vote was unanimous.

Kent motioned to approve invoice #121435 from the Association of Town Finance Committees for Annual Dues for \$180.00, seconded by Bob. After a brief discussion the vote was unanimous.

There was some discussion about sharing costs with the Board of Selectmen, for a joint mailing announcing the Town Meeting. The Postal Service has a service called "Every Door" that cost 18 cents per mail piece to every house in Town. There was also discussion about which topics should be on the mailing.

Margaret motioned to approve a joint mailing announcing the Special Town Meeting with the Board of Selectmen, seconded by Bob. Vote was unanimous.

Gary said that the warrant for the Special Town Meeting is long, and the Board of Selectmen decided to put the financial articles at the beginning of the warrant and decided that they would reserve a second day for the meeting if needed. The meeting will be held at the Middle School. Gary then went over each article and said there would be no votes today, but the committee would discuss each article decide if any articles would need more information provided to the Finance Committee:

Article 1- Engineering for the Stormwater Management Plan – the committee has no questions.

Article 2 – Board of Health to be elected independent of the Board of Selectmen – clarification is needed.

Article 3 – Add to Ballot to Appoint a Board of Health – clarification is needed.

Article 4 - Purchase of 0 Elm Street Tisdale Pond Dam and water line – a question that the Finance Committee would like answered – "Will there be other costs for the taxpayers?"

Article 5 – Design Services, Project Mgt and Bidding for Renovation/Remodel of Council on Aging – a question that the Finance Committee would like answered by the Board of Selectmen – "How will it be funded and what will total costs be?"

Article 6 – Availability of Articles to the Public – the committee has no questions.

Article 7 – Posting Warrants – the committee has no questions.

Article 8 – Standing Vote – the committee has no questions.

Article 9 – Standing Vote 2 – the committee has no questions.

Article 10 – Special Town Meeting Quorum Increase – the committee has no questions.

Article 11 – Finance Committee Appointed – the committee would like to try to table this article and rewrite the article and bring it forward once re-written.

Article 12 – Establish a By-Law Committee – the committee has no questions.

Article 13 – Purchase of new Riding Lawn Mower for Highway Department – a question that the Finance Committee would like answered by Chuck – “is the Town still mowing the ball fields and what is the age of the mower to be replaced?”

Article 14 – Funding for Union Contracts for Dispatchers – The committee will discuss once concrete numbers have been received for all union contracts.

Article 15 – Funding for Union Contracts for Firefighters Association – The committee will discuss once concrete numbers have been received for all union contracts.

Article 16 – Funding for Union Contracts for Clerical Union – The committee will discuss once concrete numbers have been received for all union contracts.

Article 17 - Funding for Union Contracts for Freetown Highway Union – The committee will discuss once concrete numbers have been received for all union contracts.

Article 18 - Funding for Union Contracts for Police Association – The committee will discuss once concrete numbers have been received for all union contracts.

Article 19 – Supplemental Department Expense Budgets – the committee has no questions.

Article 20 – Supplementing the Department Personnel Budgets – a question that the Finance Committee would like answered – “Why is Confidential Secretary not on the list?”

Article 21 – Zoning By-Law change to allow Veterinary office in Village Business District – the committee has no questions.

Article 22 – Measurer of Wood, Bark and Lumber – The committee would like clarification as the wording is confusing.

Article 23 – Highway Surveyor Salary Increase – the committee has no questions.

Article 24 – CONEX storage boxes for Highway and Fire Department – the questions that the Finance Committee would like answered by Chuck – “Where are they getting the boxes and is it going out to bid?”

Article 25 – Parcel of Land from Board of Selectmen to Conservation Commission – the committee has no questions.

Article 26 – Amendment of Town and Freetown Zoning Map – the committee has no questions.

Article 27 – Water & Sewer Enterprise Supplement to General Fund – clarification is needed.

Article 28 – Water & Sewer Commission becoming a Town Department vs. Enterprise Fund – clarification is needed.

Article 29 – Supplement to Board of Assessors and Health Insurance – clarification is needed.

Article 30 – Replacement Shed for Cemetery – the committee has no questions.

Article 31 – Abolish the farm Animal Excise Tax – the committee has no questions.

Article 32 – Air Conditioning at Town Hall – a question that the Finance Committee would like answered – “How much is being spent now for A/C and what will the upgrade cost?”

Article 33 – Juneteenth as a paid holiday - the committee has no questions.

There was some discussion on meeting with the Board of Selectmen to discuss the warrant. Gary said he can email to get some of the answers, and a meeting is needed to discuss some of the other questions. The Town Meeting is October 18.

The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on September 30 at 5:30 PM.

Christine motioned to allow Kent serve as Vice Chair if Gary is away for the September 30 meeting, seconded by Katie. Vote was unanimous.

Bob motioned to adjourn at 7:17 PM, seconded by Margaret. Vote was unanimous.