

TOWN OF FREETOWN

Finance Committee

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FREETOWN TOWN CLERK
2022 JAN 10 AM 11:12

Minutes of

MEETING: 6:00 PM Thursday, November 4, 2021

Remote meeting via Zoom

Chair Gary Martin called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

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

1. Minutes from 10/7/21, 10/13/21, and 10/18/21 -

Kent motioned to accept the minutes from 10/7/21, 10/13/21, and 10/18/21, as presented, seconded by Emily. Roll call vote: Bob Alderson – abstain, Christine Dupras – yes, Emily-Anne Dors – yes, Margaret French – yes, Katie Calheta – yes, Kent Wilkins – yes, Gary Martin – yes. Vote was 6-0-1.

2. Transfer request for \$10 from the Reserve Fund to Moderator Dues & Memberships – Gary said that the Mass Moderators Association increased their dues from \$20.00 to \$30.00, and they did not notify members that were not in attendance at the Annual Meeting.

Bob motioned to approve the transfer request of \$10.00 from the Reserve Fund to Moderator Dues & Memberships, seconded by Kent. Roll call vote: Bob Alderson – yes, Christine Dupras – yes, Emily-Anne Dors – yes, Margaret French – yes, Katie Calheta – yes, Kent Wilkins – yes, Gary Martin – yes. Vote was unanimous.

3. Transfer request for \$50 from the Reserve Fund to Moderator Meetings & Training Seminars – This is for the Town Moderator to attend the Fall Meeting of the City and Town Clerks Association of Plymouth, Bristol, and Norfolk Counties.

Bob motioned to approve the transfer request of \$50.00 from the Reserve Fund to Moderator Meetings & Training Seminars, seconded by Kent. Roll call vote: Bob Alderson – yes, Christine Dupras – yes, Emily-Anne Dors – yes, Margaret French – yes, Katie Calheta – yes, Kent Wilkins – yes, Gary Martin – yes. Vote was unanimous.

4. Revolving Fund Transfer Request for \$10,000 to fund the Police Details, Boat and Beach Attendants costs for May-June 2022 – Gary said that this was incorrectly listed on the Board of Selectmen's agenda as a transfer request, but it is a revolving fund increase in spending authorization for the boat ramp revolving fund. The authorization approved at Town Meeting was \$9,000.00. Gary said they are asking for a \$10,000.00 increase for a total of \$19,000.00, although the Finance Committee had already approved an increase of \$1,407.72, and apparently that is no longer relevant, as the amount that they really want is \$19,000.00. This request is to pay police details.

Bob asked what would warrant such a large increase and Gary said that there has been a lot of trouble lately at the boat ramp and beach that has required a police presence. The funds would be coming out of the revolving fund and would not affect the taxpayers. There was discussion about the trouble that has been happening at the boat ramp. There was also discussion about what was spent and when. Gary checked to see if they have enough money in the fund and the

balance is \$36,196.25. There was extensive discussion about revolving funds and about the urgency of this request. There was confusion and discussion about the forms and about the \$1,407.72, and if that would need to be rescinded. There was also discussion on how the amount of the request was determined.

Bob motioned to postpone this request pending further information, seconded by Kent. Roll call vote: Bob Alderson – yes, Christine Dupras – yes, Margaret French – yes, Katie Calheta – yes, Kent Wilkins – yes, Emily-Anne Dors – yes, Gary Martin – yes. Vote was unanimous.

5. Discussion and vote on authorizing the Chair to sign documents for members of the Committee

Kent motioned to approve authorization for the Chairman to sign any documents that the Finance Committee approves, seconded by Bob. Roll call vote: Bob Alderson – yes, Christine Dupras – yes, Emily-Anne Dors – yes, Margaret French – yes, Katie Calheta – yes, Kent Wilkins – yes, Gary Martin – yes. Vote was unanimous.

Gary said that there has been some discussion about the tax rate shift, and he just wanted the Finance Committee to know.

Gary also realized that he had not read the statement about remote meetings from the Governor earlier, so he read it now:

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020, Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, sec. 18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020, Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, 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).

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