

TOWN OF FREETOWN

Finance Committee

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Minutes of

MEETING: 5:30 PM Thursday, October 7, 2021

Council on Aging, 227 Chace Rd., East Freetown

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Chair Gary Martin called the meeting to order at 5:39 PM.

Present: Chair Gary Martin, Kent Wilkins, Emily-Anne Dors, Margaret French, Katie Calheta, Christine Dupras (5:54), and Kim Johnson, Recording Clerk. Bob Alderson is excused.

1. Discussion and vote on a mask requirement for attendees of Finance Committee Meetings - Gary sent out an email with specific wording for a mask mandate for Finance Committee meetings. Margaret read it aloud: "All attendees at indoor in-person meetings of the Freetown Finance Committee are required to wear a mask covering both nose and mouth except briefly while drinking or when speaking, provided that another attendee indicates that the speaker cannot be understood while wearing a mask. If an attendee refuses to comply, the Chair may request a motion to adjourn. Unfinished business shall be postponed to a future meeting." There was a brief discussion about deleting the last two sentences on advice from Counsel.

Kent motioned to accept the mask requirement for attendees of Finance Committee Meetings, with the last two sentences removed, seconded by Emily. Vote was unanimous.

2. Approval of minutes of 9/23/21 –

Emily motioned to accept the minutes from September 23, 2021, as written, seconded by Kent. Vote was unanimous.

3. Discussion and vote on request to transfer \$8,795.00 from the Reserve Fund to Treasurer/Tax Collector PFT-Salary/Wages – There was some discussion about getting a trainee and the what the actual transfer is for. Gary said it is \$3,920.00 for vacation payout for Jessica, \$2,780.00 for vacation payout for Isabel, \$1,445.00 for a week overlap with Jessica and the new Treasurer, Patty, and additional time for Jessica as departmental assistant for up to 2 months for \$650.00. It was decided that there is not enough information at this time, therefore it has been deferred until next meeting, in the hopes that more information has been provided.
4. Sign request to increase the spending authorization for the Boat Ramp Revolving Fund approved at the 9/23/21 meeting – Gary said that there was a page missing at the last meeting (September 23), which was where the signatures should have been inserted. This was approved at that meeting. The committee members that voted yes at the meeting on September 23<sup>rd</sup> signed the request to increase the spending authorization for the Boat Ramp.
5. Discussion and vote on recommendation for STM articles funding the first-year costs of collective bargaining agreement for Dispatch and Highway employees – Gary said the amount for Dispatch is \$17,714.76 and for the Highway employees is \$15,733.24.

Katie motioned to recommend Special Town Meeting articles for funding the first-year costs of the collective bargaining agreements with Dispatch for \$17,714.76 and Highway employees for \$15,733.24, seconded by Kent. Vote was unanimous.

6. Internal discussion of the Finance Committee's position going into the renegotiation of the Water & Sewer Enterprise Fund's indirect cost agreement, scheduled to begin at a joint meeting of the Finance Committee, Water & Sewer Commission, and the Board of Selectmen on 10/13/21 – There was extensive discussion amongst the Finance Committee about rates and the Water and Sewer budget, and how many Town water customers there are. They came to an agreement on what their position is, and Gary said he would put in writing, the talking points for the meeting on October 13.

There also was some discussion about the COA building. It was decided that the Finance Committee will still support the article.

Gary also said that the first-year contract costs for Administration and Library and are \$26,494.84.

The next meeting will be at 6:30 PM on October 18 at the Middle School before Town Meeting. Gary said that masks are encouraged at Town Meeting. There was some discussion about whether, or not, masks should be mandated at Town Meeting because it is being held in a School Building.

Margaret motioned to adjourn at 6:37 PM, seconded by Kent. Vote was unanimous.