

Finance Committee
Combined Meeting with Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 5, 2022– 6:00pm
Police Station Community Room
15 Memorial Drive, East Freetown, MA

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Combined Meeting with Board of Selectmen & Finance Committee

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

Margaret French at 6:05 called the Finance Meeting to order.

Selectmen Zager announced we will start with Assessors and only need to know about any major increase/changes.

1. Omnibus Fiscal Year 23 Budget Review with Finance Committee. It is anticipated that Departments listed below will be reviewed. Others may be discussed as may come up or as they relate.
 - a. Assessors
 - b. Board of Health
 - c. Conservation
 - d. Cultural Council
 - e. Highway
 - f. Planning
 - g. Police
 - h. Town Clerk
 - i. Transfer Station
 - j. Water & Sewer

Assessors, Robert Sadeck:

All contractual increases. Section 141: Assessors-personnel are up by Three Thousand, Twenty-Nine Dollars. Section 142: Assessors Reveal- data licenses are up and cost of evaluations.

Water & Sewer, Robert Sadeck:

Town Accountant Kimberley Fales mentioned Department 450, but it being a special article for their operating budget there is a special packet for it being an enterprise fund. Regular gross overtime if they work more than 40 hours, and they wish to get paid for that time in that specific pay period. There is a provision within the collective bargaining agreement that they can accumulate their comp time up to 40 hours and get paid for that at the end of the year. It is tracked separately for budget purposes.

Highway, Chuck Macomber:

Section 420: Highways & Streets-Significant increase in repairs and maintenance of roadways. Contractual increases. Highway Other Purchased Services increased. Section 423: Snow and Ice Removal asking for Fifty Thousand more for a total of Two Hundred Thousand. They plowed 6 times and we had 42 inches of snow throughout the entire season. Most of this is for sand and salt. Section 424 Street Lighting- With new streetlights installed and running more efficient there is a decrease in this area.

Board of Health, Keven Desmarais:

Section 433: Trash Collection and Disposal-Contract and cost increases and fixed costs. Trash bag revenue goes into the general fund. Section 510 Health Inspection Services, Clerk & contractual increases. Full time and part time Inspectors are needed. Fifteen Thousand Dollars went into Other Property Related Services for Town Beach improvements. The Beach attendant is covered by the Revolving Fund. Town Accountant Kimberley Fales suggested they could transfer this Fifteen Thousand Dollar amount to the Revolving Fund would be a better place for it to go. It would just need to be a voted transfer, then it would go into the Long Pond revolving fund. Then you could increase the authorization to spend. Ms. Pettey said it would be useful there because we have a lot of expenses at the boat ramp. Ms. Fales stated to call it a transfer to special revenue for Long Pond revolving fund. Mr. Desmarais agreed. Health Professional and Technical Services and Fees went up. Mr. Desmarais anticipating some oversight testing, hiring engineers dealing with Excel. Ground, well, water, storm water, air, sound testing needing to keep Excel in compliance and help mitigate issues that a business like that potentially could have. Ms. Pettey stated testing like this could range from Twenty to Thirty Thousand Dollars, and she recommended having Fifty Thousand Dollars in the Board of Health budget for any type of tested needed. Ms. Fales mentioned the revenue source of the tipping fee is added into the budget for local receipts. The Seventy-Five Thousand is a local receipt. That will offset what tax burden is being paid by Excel. The Twenty-Five Thousand will be subject to the Board's discretion as a gift so that is not part of the general fund revenue. Excel is contributing to cover this cost.

Conservation Commission, Victoria D'Antoni:

Section 171: Clerical hours increase 12 to 16 hours. Requesting to hire a part-time consulting agent to help with investigating complaints, wetland violations, inspecting construction sites, daily guidance to clerical staff and monitoring ongoing projects. In state travel increase. Dues and Membership increase.

Planning Board, Victoria D'Antoni for Robert Jose:

Section 175: Planning Meetings & Training Seminars increased. Town Planner Position. Section 177: Soil Board, all level funded.

Town Clerk, Cheryl Estrella:

Section 163: Registration- \$33.00 Increase. Section 162: Primaries and Elections- three elections planned for FY 2023. Salary and wages increased for coverage of the three elections. Professional and Technical increased for poll pad maintenance. Food supplies went up. Section 161: Town Clerk Salary increased, Clerical increase for an additional part-

time employee at 19 hours a week at a step one rate. Town Clerk meetings and training seminars increased. Purchased Services increased. Town Clerk in-state travel increased.

Police, Chief Carlton Abbott:

Section 210: Police Chief salary contractual increase. Police Retirement-Sick Buy Back increased. Training stipends increased. Confidential Secretary increase of hours from 32 to 36 hours and add a two percent increase. Police Additional Gross Overtime decreased. Section 215: Communications-Full-Time Dispatch Supervisor contractual wage increased. Full time Dispatchers increased. Holiday Worked Regular Wages increased. In-Service Training increased. Additional Gross Overtime Training increased. Repair and Maintenance Equipment increased. Meetings and Training Seminars increased. Section 950: Town-Wide Fueling increased.

Cultural Council: No questions on this budget

Transfer Station Deb Pettey for Victoria King:

Section 434: Transfer Station hours have increased, now opened 6 days a week. Operator Part-Time Salary/Wages increased. Supervisor, Operator and Longevity are contractual increases. Additional Gross Overtime increased for snow days. Heating and Fuel was increased.

- Motion to adjourn made by Selectmen Lopes and seconded by Selectmen Zager
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote.

- Motion to adjourn made by Katie Calheta and seconded by Robert Alderson
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

