

Finance Committee Meeting – March 15, 2024

Meeting was called to order at 8:30am

Meeting occurred both in person and via zoom (*zoom attendees)

Members Present: Allen Rugg, Howard Goldstein*, Jim Newman

Also present: Emily Day, Accountant; Jamie Vanderhoop, Treasurer; Jay Smalley, DPW Director; Jeff Madison, Town Administrator; Tom Murphey, Select Board Chair; Julie Vanderhoop, Select Board; Gary Haley, Select Board

Harbormaster/Shellfish Warden – FY25 budget is level funded; Harbormaster has requested to add funding for an assistant (Harbormaster not present to give detail on request).

Department of Public Works – FY25 wage increases reflect step and COLA adjustments; temporary/seasonal employee line item reduced slightly; building maintenance wages for custodian reduced by \$7,500 and shifted to the service and maintenance line item; storage unit rental line item reduced by half; vehicle maintenance reduced by \$2,000; road maintenance contractors expense is anticipated to increase (contracting with companies that have special equipment rather than the town buying equipment); reduction in highway vehicle maintenance expense; DPW dump truck: newer truck lease has been paid off and director requested the consideration of replacing the older dump truck; Emily noted that, because the town leased vehicles have been paid off, there is some FY24 funding remaining and can accommodate initial payment on a new DPW vehicle; old dump truck is in need of serious repair; restroom cleaning/monitoring expense to increase to \$35,000; Lighthouse maintenance budget remaining level funded.

Police Department – Brief conversation concerning wages and paid time; Chief was not present to answer questions nor give a presentation of budget; request for an analysis of adding additional full-time officer.

Next meeting – March 27th at 10am and March 28th at 10am (warrant articles and catch up). By next meeting, Emily will have information on open issues: personnel committee to weigh in on COLA, proposed step increases for two employees, applicability of COLA to stipend employees, and possible insurance split for less than full-time employees; supplemental town insurance detail; Police Department budget; Library budget; Board of Health budget; and Tri Town budget. Emily will send an update out by March 22nd. April 4th final meeting where committee will make the final recommendation to the Select Board.

With no other business, meeting adjourned at 9:20am