

Minutes of the March 2, 2023 Finance Committee

Members	Absent	Other
Shaun Galliher	Tracy Lussier	
Heather Brown		
Jim Chivers		
Bonnie Conner		
Mary Rice		
Sara Baumann		
Candy Galeucia		

The meeting was opened at 6:31 pm.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the February 2, 2023 meeting as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Galliher asked if anyone had any questions or concerns about the Accountant's report. One was the Water/Sewer Superintendent salaries at 137.17% expended. Chairman Galliher thought that it was posted to the wrong account and will check on it. Other than that, no issues were found.

Bonnie Conner, 7 Town School Advisory Committee, reported that she and Bruce Alexander attended the last meeting. Bruce was recently appointed by the Selectmen, to this committee. Joe Diver, Town of Dalton Select Board Chairman, called out the School Committee, telling them that they work for the Towns they represent and not be a rubber stamp for the School Committee. Bill Drosehn, Dalton Finance Committee Chairman also told them they need to trim the current proposed budget. The Towns are all facing needed issues and they need to work with us. The next meeting has not yet been scheduled for this Committee.

Mary Rice, Water Sewer Committee, reported that Dave Prickett, the consultant hired by the Town, will present his recommendation for rate increases at the meeting on Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 5:30 pm in the Town Hall Community Room. This is a joint meeting with the Committee and the Water Sewer Commissioners (Select Board). The surplus accounts need to be increased to lessen the impact on the costs for the new Pittsfield treatment plant, and on going needs of the departments.

There is no Reserve Fund Transfer request from the Fire Department at this time.

The Committee discussed Heather Brown's research project on the County Police Department wage structure and Hinsdale is about in the middle of the scale. Chief Rathbun did get an extension by the State, requested by the Town, to stay employed past the mandatory retirement age of 65. It is unclear how long she intends to stay since originally it was to help with the merger that is no longer being sought by Hinsdale.

Chairman Galliher reported that the Highway truck is back from being repaired in Springfield.

Chairman Galliher reminded everyone of the Saturday Budget meeting scheduled for 8:30 am this Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup>.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 7:12 pm, the motion passed unanimously. The next regular meeting of this Committee is Thursday, April 6, 2023 at 6:30 pm in the downstairs Community room at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary A. Rice, Secretary

