

## Minutes of the February 1, 2024 Finance Committee

Members	Absent	Other
Shaun Galliher	Sarah Baumann	Bob Graves, Town Administrator
Bonnie Conner		
Mary Rice		
Russ Parks		
Heather Brown		
Candy Galeucia		
Tracey Lussier		
Jim Chivers		

The meeting was opened at 6:31 pm.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the January 4, 2024 meeting as written. The motion passed unanimously.

The Committee reviewed the Accountant's report. There were some questions about several accounts that were explained satisfactorily. Some accounts appeared to be underexpended, and some that may have appeared trending to possibly over running. Neither was the case, and none are expected to over run at this time.

Bob Graves reported that the Town has received \$45K from the State for storm damage incurred. This money can be used for Winter Roads Maintenance and that account will not go over. He also reported that the East Washington Road project is close to being done, with some gravel held back to address the mud season. There is no news yet about the replacement cruiser that was totalled in an accident in the Fall.

Bob also reported that we are still waiting on the USDA application for the grant for the Fire Department Tanker. He does not expect a decision until possibly summer time.

Our next Budget will see increases in Health Insurance, and Cybersecurity that is mandated now by the State for the Water and Sewer systems. The State is concerned about potential hacks of our systems. There are Grants available to do this.

The Water Report has been received and sent to all Committee members to review. Several issues that were noted in the Report will be handled by Dave Prickett at a cost of \$12,600.00.

Bob also reported that the State is considering changing the Procurement Laws to a higher amount.

Water & Sewer bills have now gone out and are due March 1, 2024. The School Committee is proposing a 3 ½ % increase over last year's budget.

Bob and the Committee discussed the CBRSD agreement that the School Committee is working on to update. We all feel that unacceptable language is still in this agreement, such as "majority" vs. each Town having a vote, that was clearly spelled out in the original agreement. If 2 Towns did not approve, indicated by each Town vote, that essentially killed any proposed project from going forward. The School Committee refers to MARS and DESE with language that it is "allowed" by these two groups. However, those groups do not have and legal status, and we feel the School Committee is twisting this to make it look like it is "LEGAL and binding, which clearly it is not. We felt that the terms of the original agreement of how votes are counted, should stand and be included in this updated version. That is what all seven (7) Towns agreed to when Regionalizing the District was voted on back in the '60's.

Bob also reported that K&P, is no longer representing the School District. It is also unclear how many Towns still have K&P in this matter.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 7:13 pm, the motion passed unanimously. The next regular meeting of this Committee is Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 6:30 pm in the downstairs Community room at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary A. Rice, Secretary