

Minutes of the March 7, 2024 Finance Committee

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

The meeting was opened at 6:35 pm.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the February 1, 2024 meeting as written. The motion passed unanimously.

The Committee reviewed the Accountant's report but there was nothing that seemed to require any discussion at this time.

Bob Graves discussed some of the increases expected in this year's budget. One is the Commercial Insurance that is increasing due to the revaluations. When values go up, the insurance goes up accordingly. Another is the IT account that could be up to 10K more because of more security requirements such as Cybersecurity.

Vocational enrollment is still not final but to date we have 15 students that are going to three different schools, Taconic, McCann and Smith. This will effect the transportation costs as well. Dufour was low bidder, with other bids coming in astronomically high, from two other companies.

Again, the School agreement was discussed. We feel they have once again, eliminated each Town's voice in the process, insisting on a majority vote, which effectively gives Dalton the say in most everything. That was not the intent of forming a Regionalization to begin with.

Another huge expense is the State Mandate to upgrade all the radios, for Police and Fire Departments. This mandate, like most others, is not funded by the State and most small Towns are also trying to figure out how to fund this. Berkshire Regional Planning is looking into some Grant funding for this.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 7:20 pm, the motion passed unanimously. The next

meeting of this Committee and the Select Board is Saturday March 9, 2024 at 8:30 am in the downstairs Community room at Town Hall. This will be a joint meeting to begin the Budget discussions.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary A. Rice, Secretary

