

Minutes of the April 4, 2024 Finance Committee

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

The meeting was opened at 6:40 p m.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the March 28, 2024 meeting as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Galliher asked if anyone had any questions or concerns about the most recent Expense Report. There were none noted.

Bob Graves, Shaun Galliher, and the Committee discussed some Budget updates and items that need further discussion. Bob will look into the increase in the Treasurers Expense Account.

A discussion and the future of Police Department Detail Funding was a big concern. The increase in administrative cost to the Town is causing us to rethink funding this going forward. We feel the Town should not be involved in this anymore as we are basically allocating tax payer monies so the Officer can get paid timely, and not wait for the company requesting the Detail, to pay them. We no longer feel the Town should be involved in this, cost or administrative wise, as it has nothing to do with our Town. These are outside companies, i.e. Eversource, requesting this work from our Officers, and nothing to do with our own payroll, but it is paid through it. There is currently a 10% Administrative fee, but it is not sustainable and is increasingly costing more than that to our Town to keep doing it. We feel it's time to stop funding it.

Chairman Galliher reported that the Infrastructure and Engineering Account should be funded through Raise and Appropriate, and not Free Cash. When we started that Account, it was

thought to be a short term Account. However, this is an account that has become needed on a yearly basis and should now be funded differently.

Recently it was announced by Bart Collins, the Select Board Chairman, that Police Chief Susan Rathbun had turned in her resignation effective April 29, 2024. Since then, the exit date has changed and this is becoming a concern for our FY25 Budget, as how to fund the Salary going forward.

Tree Warden Account is currently 10% expended. The Hazardous Tree Account still has monies that could fund this account, and not fund additional monies in next years Budget.

Vocational Transportation costs are: McCann \$250.50, Smith \$234.80, and Taconic \$250.50. These are the per day figures, bases on 180 days for a total of \$132,444. The Vocational list has 13 from Hinsdale, with a few questions of residency of several students that Bob will check into. We are still waiting for Tuition figures.

Other increases were discussed such as Norther Berkshire Waste, Town Insurances, Sewer Loan Ashmere, Grant for Town Generator, Police Chief Search Committee, Dumpster for Shreader, Highway Equipment, Wages, Fire Department Tanker Grant, Vocational Tuition and Transportation, and Water Sewer Accounts.

The Cherry Sheet figures are not known yet. The Capital Plan was discussed and several items were moved out to future years.

Chairman Galliher will update the Budget spreadsheet and send it out prior to our next meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 7:33 pm, the motion passed unanimously. The next regular meeting of this Committee is Thursday, May 2, 2024 at 6:30 pm in the downstairs Community room at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary A. Rice, Secretary