

Minutes of the April 18, 2024 Finance Committee

Members	Absent	Other
Shaun Galliher		Bob Graves, Town Administrator
Russ Parks		Bart Collins, Select Board Chair
Jim Chivers		Ray Huntoon, Select Board
Heather Brown		
Bonnie Conner		
Mary Rice		
Tracey Lussier		
Candy Galeucia		
Sarah Baumann		

The meeting was opened at 6:46 p m.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the April 4, 2024 meeting as written. The motion passed with one absention.

Bob Graves handed out copies of the latest Budget figures. Chairman Galliher reviewed this with Bob and the Committee that included; Town Insurance; the boiler fan; Grant for the Belmont possible matching funds needed; required upgrades at the Belmont presented by Bernie St. Martin that can be done over a period of 3 years. Chairman Galliher will have the final Budget proposal at our next regular meeting on May2, 2024. that will include these figures.

The Committee discussed a going to quarterly billing and how that will work. If that if voted yes at the ATM it will start next year. The reason is that our cash flow will improve, which has sometimes been an issue if the tax bills go out late and the payments are delayed. The Treasure cannot pay if the cash is not there. Late fees will also be calculated quarterly, but everyone would still have the option to pay in full or in the 6 month payments, avoiding a late fee. We also discussed increasing the late fees to cover all the costs related to late payments.

Several FY23 bills will need to be payed and for various reasons were sent to the Town late. Any bill that needs to be paid from a previous fiscal year, must be approved at the ATM. Some of those bills are as follows; KP Law \$823.00; Berkshire Eagle \$67.00; Electric Bill \$375.00; 4 invoices for the May '23 samples for the PFAS water study at Plunkett Lake \$1108.60. This is ordered by the State and every Town has to do it. There currently is only one lab does it and

the billing was delayed.

The Committee discussed Lake Management's budget request for the treatment of the Plunkett Lake weed levels. If the water in the lake was lowered 6"we could see savings of \$8K to \$9K. The discussion included dredging and the current water levels. It is 22' at the spillway and less that 15' in other parts of the lake. This is mostly due to the sediment that has filtered into the Lake. The repairs on the spillway are at least 2 years out and Bob has applied for a Project Grant. Heather Brown reported that she recently worked on and received, a special grant from the State for the dredging of Shaker Pond. She will send Bob that information.

Bob, Shaun and the Committee discussed the position of Interim Police Chief, possibly up to 6 months. The Police Chief Search Committee is being organized now with several people interested. Since Chief Rathbun will leave at the end of May,

we need to address funding for June for this position. There is a new report out on comparable wages for this position in surrounding towns and districts including population. Heather will get this report and send it to Bob. We also need to budget for the full time Chief for next year.

The Reserve Fund request for funding the Search Committee will be deferred to our next meeting. The cost will be for the Massachusetts Police Chief's Association that will assist in the research, and any other costs involved.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 7:47 pm, the motion passed unanimously. The next meeting of this Committee is April 25, 2024 at 6:30 pm in the downstairs Community room at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary A. Rice, Secretary