

Minutes Holden Finance Committee, April 10, 2024, Senior Center
Budget Review and Discussion

Members Present: Paul Challenger, Chris Lucchesi, Al Berg, Dave White, Jane Titcomb, Stephanie Adams, Donna Wallace, Sarah Concannon, Marilynn Foley
Also Present: Peter Lukes, Town Manager, John Woodsmall, DPW Director, Tom Curran, Selectman

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M.

The Committee continued to look at department budgets and to vote on those budgets

Th Committee reviewed a list submitted by Library Director Susan Scott of proposed items that could be reduced to get the library budget closer to the Finance Committee's recommendation of a 3.2 percent increase. After discussion a motion by Chris 2nd by Stephanie to approve a revised Library Budget of \$1,024,948.00 was approved unanimously. A reduction of \$4,000.00.

The Committee reviewed the DPW Budget. Items discussed were removing a part time position to be shared with W/S for \$10,500.00, a project manager position (what that job description would be and the appropriate pay level), which was approved, reducing snow removal funds by \$50,000.00, and line painting by \$25,000.00. Also discussed were suggested cuts from John totaling \$40,700.00, which were removed from the budget. A motion by Chris 2nd by Al to approve a revised DPW operating Budget of \$3,931,925.00 (not including capital purchases) was approved unanimously. A reduction of \$126,200.00. Vehicle purchases for different departments were discussed, and voted on later in the meeting.

A motion by Donna 2nd by Marilynn to approve a revised Veteran's Budget of \$64,926.00 was approved unanimously. A reduction in the aid and assistance line of \$20,500.00.

A motion by Stephanie 2nd by Donna to approve a revised Senior Center Budget of \$352,386.00 was approved unanimously (abstained Dave). A reduction of \$2,000.00 for computers.

A motion by Dave 2nd by Al to approve the Historical Commission Budget of \$4,850.00 was approved unanimously.

A motion by Chris 2nd by Marilynn to approve the Montachusett Regional Vocational HS Assessment of \$1,797,829.00 was approved unanimously.

A motion by Dave 2nd by Marilynn to approve the Wachusett Regional School District assessment of \$37,495,740.00 (including WRSD debt, both excluded and non-excluded) was approved unanimously.

A motion by Chris 2nd by Stephanie to approve the Out of District tuition of \$121,543.00 was approved unanimously.

The Committee moved on to discussion of capital requests.

Al passed out a sheet of DPW equipment proposed reductions and funding changes. John also passed out a sheet of his recommendations. The Committee discussed the various options presented. A motion by Dave 2nd by Donna to support Al's DPW vehicle plan purchases was approved unanimously. In

summary, this was a reduction to the tax rate of \$337,500.00. Other recommendations by AI for where and how each purchase should be funded were held for a future discussion.

A motion by Stephanie 2nd by Donna to approve \$290,000.00 for Buildings and Grounds capital requests was approved unanimously. A \$60,000.00 reduction, reflecting the Senior Center parking lot being put on the capital exclusion ballot.

A motion by Dave 2nd by AI to approve \$86,000.00 for the Cemetery capital requests was approved unanimously. This represented a \$70,000.00 reduction.

A motion by Dave 2nd by AI not to replace vehicle #82, Ford Escape, \$17,500.00 Engineering, other \$17,500.00 from W/S, was approved unanimously.

A motion by AI 2nd by Sarah to approve Highway capital requests of \$2,501,000.00 was approved unanimously. This represented a reduction of \$262,000.00

A motion by Stephanie 2nd by Jane to approve the minutes of April 3, 2024 was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 P.M.