

Town of East Bridgewater Finance Committee

175 Central Street
East Bridgewater, MA 02333
Town Hall

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'23 FEB 7 PM12:31



**Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 4, 2023**

Members present: Dan Picha, Karen Harhen, Dave Walsh, George Jouvin

Member(s) absent: Joe Conley, Karin Gilman, Lisa Allington

Guest(s): John Haines, DPW Director; Charlie Seelig, Town Administrator; Timothy Harhen, Fire Chief

1. Meeting called to order at 6:03 PM by Dan Picha.
2. John Haines, DPW Director, presented a request to transfer \$8,992.50 from the Reserve Fund in accordance with Chapter 40, Section 6, of the Massachusetts General Laws, to Account # 425-0520-5243 – DPW Repair and Maintenance – Equipment, to be used to replace the motor on the repair lift in the DPW garage so that the lift will have the capacity to lift the new ambulance purchased by the Fire Department.
 - a. Mr. Haines explained that the weight of the new ambulance exceeds the 16,000 lb. gross weight limit, and that the cost includes an upgrade to the 4 swing-out arms and lift motor.
 - b. Although this was an unforeseen expense, Mr. Haines explained that newer electric vehicles weigh more than standard ones, which will necessitate a stronger lift in the future.
 - c. Dave Walsh made the motion to approve the request, seconded by George Jouvin, and was approved 3-0 with Karen Harhen abstaining.
3. Finance Committee members reviewed minutes from the previous four meetings, dated 10/3/22, 10/25/22, 11/8/22 and 11/14/22.
 - a. Dave Walsh made a motion to approve minutes from all four meetings, with a correction on the 10/25/22 minutes to correct the spelling of a member's last name (Harhen).
 - b. Motion was seconded by Dan Picha, and approved 4-0.
4. Committee reviewed department list for budget planning and assigned the following liaisons:

Department	Liaison(s)
Town Accountant	Karen Harhen
Assessors Department	Dave Walsh, Lisa Allington
Building/Planning Department	Dave Walsh
Information Technology	Karen Harhen

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Fire Department (2)	Dave Walsh, Karin Gilman
Police Department (2)	Dave Walsh, George Jouvin
Library	Dan Picha, George Jouvin
DPW (2)	Dan Picha, Karen Harhen
Treasurer & Collector	Dave Walsh, Karin Gilman
BOS/Town Administrator	Karen Harhen
Town Clerk	Joe Conley (pending confirmation)
School Department (2)	Dan Picha, Lisa Allington
Veterans' Services	Dave Walsh
Council on Aging	Joe Conley (pending confirmation)
Conservation Commission	Joe Conley (pending confirmation)
Historical Commission	Dan Picha, Karin Gilman
Recreation Commission	Dan Picha, Lisa Allington
Board of Health	Dave Walsh, George Jouvin

- a. Charlie Seelig provided an overview of the budget timeline: operating budgets are due at the end of next week (1/13/23) with the goal for department heads to meet with Finance Committee liaisons by the end of February; Special Town Meeting and Annual Town Meeting are scheduled for 5/8/23.
 - b. He also noted that union contracts for the fire department and clerical workers are still being negotiated, and negotiations will begin soon for the patrol officers' union contract.
 - c. Charlie plans to review and have recommendations for wage and salary program for the Board of Selectmen, who will review and make recommendations. Once completed, the Finance Committee will receive operating and capital budgets for review.
 - d. Dan Picha and Charlie Seelig explained that due to the changing gubernatorial administration, Chapter 70 funding will be delayed until late March, which will affect the school budget process.
 - e. Dan Picha will send an email to committee outlining budget process next steps by 1/5/22.
5. Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:35 PM by Dave Walsh, seconded by George Jouvin, was approved 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted by: 

Dan Picha, Chairman