

Town of East Bridgewater Finance Committee

175 Central Street
East Bridgewater, MA 02333
Town Hall



Finance Committee Meeting Minutes Monday, May 15, 2023

REC'D TOWN CLERK
23 JUN 14 8:49

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

Member(s) absent: Karin Gilman

Guest(s): Charlie Seelig, Town Administrator; Melanie Dean, Town Accountant; Jeanmarie Joyce, Health Agent

1. Meeting called to order at 6:12 PM by Dan Picha, Finance Committee Chair
2. Board of Health mis-labeled a submission in their original budget that should be under capital instead of operating, for the sum of \$150,000. Health Agent Jeanmarie Joyce provided details related to the Board of Health's request for appropriation to support a Capital Project. Request is to move funds to line item "Disposal Area Expense Maintenance-Bldg/Grounds" in the Board of Health Budget, for the replacement of perimeter existing chain link/stockade fencing/gas vents. The cost includes approximately 2,500 feet of chain link fence, privacy screening, removal of brush and trees to allow access to the fencing, replacement of two (20 foot) gates and replacement/repair of 15 vent pipes. Dave Walsh stated that Capital Committee will review in the next week and make a recommendation.
3. Meeting minutes from April 26, 2023 were reviewed and a motion to accept them as written was made by Lisa Allington, seconded by George Jouvin; Approved 4-0-1 (Dave Walsh abstained as he was absent for last meeting).
4. Jessica Henderson, Director of Library Services, made a request to move excess money from Department Head and Librarian salaries into several other categories, including repairs, maintenance, computers, supplies, dues/membership, etc. for the sum of \$11,550.00 Dave Walsh made a motion to accept request; Lisa Allington seconded motion. Approved 5-0.
5. Tim Harhen, Fire Chief, made a request to transfer \$15,000 from Permanent and Call Fire salaries to Additional Comp Other to offset expenses related to on-job-injury (OJI), boat raining, bicentennial fireworks, and bonfire detail. Dave Walsh made a motion to accept request, seconded by George Jouvin; Approved 4-0 with 1 abstention (Karen Harhen).
6. Police Department made a request to transfer to \$37,617.00 from Sergeant Salary to various other categories such as shift differentials, court appearances, vacation, holiday pay, longevity and other, in order to properly allocate money to specific accounts. Motion to accept request was made by Dave Walsh, seconded by Lisa Allington; Approved 5-0.
7. DPW made a request to transfer \$85,968.81 from various accounts to other accounts to correct salary expenses that had previously fallen under one budget line item and are now being broken out into various components. Motion to accept request was by Dave Walsh, seconded by Lisa Allington; Approved 5-0.

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8. Office of Town Clerk made a request to transfer \$3,000.00 from budget line item Town Meeting Wardens to Admin Support and Clerical Salaries, because the original budget assumed that employee would take comp time instead of work over-time. Motion to accept request was made by Dave Walsh, seconded by George Jouvin; Approved 5-0.
9. Budget deficit of \$330,000 still exists; Last week, a meeting was held with Carol Julius (Select Board) and school representatives to discuss budgets. The school budget sub-committee will regroup and look at making reductions. All other departments have already cut their budgets. Another meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 19th at 9 am with school leadership, members of town administration/Finance Department, and other department heads to discuss where things stand. School Committee meets on May 23rd. Town does not expect the House and Senate budgets to offer significant assistance.
10. Melanie Dean gave update on money available in Free Cash fund, which is still dependent upon contract negotiations, several of which should be settled in the next few weeks. Schools have received additional funding for specific items that will also help reduce the deficit.
11. Finance Committee needs to vote on all town meeting articles by Tuesday, May 30th. Dan proposed meeting at 6 pm on May 30, 2023.
12. Motion to adjourn meeting was made at Dave Walsh, seconded by Lisa Allington at 6:35 pm; Approved 5-0.

