

Finance Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 24, 2021

Called to order by Chairman Joe Freitas at 6:03 pm.

Committee Members in Attendance

Per Covid – 19 prodigal, verbal roll call of attendance:

Chairman Joe Freitas, Michele Hamilton, Melinda Paine-Dupont. Matthew Chabot, Nancy Gajoli, Tabitha McCrohan.

Motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of February 23, 2021. Verbal roll call for approval and the committee unanimously voted to accept the minutes

Chairman Joe Freitas reached out to the new members of the committee and provided them with information for them to familiarize themselves with and to assist in understanding town finance. Such as, Article 7 Town of Berkley Bylaw , Open Law Rules, MMA, and DLS.

Joe also spoke briefly about the Finance Committee Budget. We currently have 6 members and how he is planning to make sure that the newest members are able to attend the MMA conference. Joe also discussed the difference of virtual and actual attendance.

Question was ^{raised} by Melinda regarding the oil tanks in the two school buildings. Looking for the size of the tank (400 gallons) and how much oil the schools actually go through in a school year. We will reach out to Superintendent Tom Lynch for the actual numbers.

Chairman Joe Freitas walked through the Town Administrator preliminary town budget. Joe pointed out that some line items of the budget may be empty due to negotiations and some departments present their budget directly to the Finance Committee.

Discussion regarding maintenance cost within the police line items.

CARES MONIES, questions regarding how much was funded, which departments received the funding and how was it disbursed. These are just a few questions that the committee will have to address when we discuss the budget with the Town Administrator.

Break down of expenditures. Joe indicated that he has received and will be sharing with the finance committee during the course of time is the General Ledger.

The fire department lost two fire fighters due to retirement. They have been replaced and this should reflect in the payroll lines.

Received preliminary budget information for the schools systems our Berkley students attend.

- Bristol Plymouth Vocational Education presented a budget of \$991,000. This is an increase of \$185,000 from Fiscal Year 2020. Increase caused by number of students attending and the construction of new facilities and update current facilities.
- Bristol Agriculture awaiting assessment.
- Somerset/Berkley High School came in at a 10% increase. This increase is far too high for both Somerset and Berkley communities. The various committees are reviewing the budget and are working to reduce the amount.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the reimbursement of \$85.00 to Joe Freitas for the attendance fees of MMA Virtual meeting in January. The funds come out of the Line item of the Finance Committee budget.

The next meeting will be held on April 6, 2021.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 pm. Verbal roll call for adjournment and the committee unanimously voted to adjourn.

Joe Freitas
4.13.2021
Michelle K. Hamilton
Nancy B. Sajote
Lalitha M. Dube