

Pursuant to Chapter 40, Section 3 of the Town of Natick By-Laws I attest that the attached copy is the approved copy of the Minutes for the following meeting.

Finance Committee
Town of Natick

Meeting Minutes for January 25, 2022

Meeting was called to order at 7:02pm

Members present:

Linda Wollschlager
Todd Gillenwater
David Coffey
Hossan Behery
Brett Conaway
Patti Sciarra

Cathy Coughlin
Dirk Coburn
Kat Monahan
Richard Pope
Phil Rooney
David Krentzman

Motion made and approved to open hearing on FY 2023 Budget

Town Administrator Jamie Errickson presented an overview of the Budget and budget process. It was reported that Governor Baker was proposing a 2.7% increase in local aid in the state budget, however, this is subject to action by the legislature. Drivers in the budget will be supply chain issues, increases in costs in several areas and staff retention.

Mr. Rooney posed several questions for future consideration on property tax revenues, employee population changes, pandemic aid and employee morale.

Dr. Nolin and Dr. Gray presented an overview of the NPS school budget process. A principal concern was presented of working with students who were having issues from the remote learning process and other Covid related issues. Despite the excellence of the digital learning system, some student have fallen behind. A second upcoming issue will be the new contract for the EAN and addressing a concern of compensation for more experienced, longer tenured teachers,

Ms. Wollschlager asked about the overall budget preparation. Dr. Nolin reported that it was coming along well, that there was an excellent level of cooperation with the Town Administrator and that she was looking forward to presenting her budget to the School Committee.

Jon Marshall presented an overview of the Capital Improvement program. There is an existing plan for 2023-2027 fiscal years, but emphasized that this is a constant work in progress.

Supply chain issues will be having an impact on cost and availability. Several questions were presented regarding funding, the use of free cash (once certified) and the freeing up of funds and dent service upon completion of older projects.

It was reported that the Capital Stabilization fund budget was approximately 1.1 million.

Moved by Mr. Gillenwater, seconded by Ms. Sciarra to close the public hearing, approved 12-0-0.

Ms. Wollschlager moved, seconded by Mr. Gillenwater that David Coffey be elected to serve as secretary of the Finance Committee, approved 12-0-0.

Scheduling:

Cleargov access should be available next week to begin budget review.

Sub-committees should be meeting throughout February to review department budgets.

A Doodle poll has been posted for the Education/Learning sub-committee.

Meeting Minutes

Minutes were approved for

9/30/2021 moved by Mr. Gillenwater, seconded by Ms. Sciarra approved 11-0-0.

10/5/2021 moved by Mr. Gillenwater, seconded by Ms. Sciarra approved 11-0-0.

10/7/2012 moved by Mr. Gillenwater, seconded by Ms. Sciarra approved 11-0-0.

Committee Reports

Mr, Coburn reported that the Charles River Dam committee was collecting data and would meet in May or June once this was completed.

Mr. Pope reported that the REMAP committee had several meetings with town employees with positive feedback.

Mr Gillenwater reported that the Audit Advisory committee was canceled.

Mr. Coffey reported that the Fire Chief screening committee had posted the vacancy through the Fire Chief Association of Massachusetts and other places, after it had been posted internally.

The committee will meet again in March once the applications are submitted and screened.

Motion made by Mr. Coburn, seconded by Mr. Gillenwater to adjourn, approved 11-0-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm

Respectfully submitted,

David J. Coffey

Secretary

Natick Finance Committee