



Natick Finance Committee

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:

Town of Natick Finance Committee

Meeting Date: October 6, 2022

The minutes were approved through the following action:

Motion:

Made by:

Seconded by:

Vote:

0 – 0 – 0

Date:

October 13, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

David Coffey

Secretary

Natick Finance Committee

Pursuant to Chapter 40, Section 3 of the by-laws of the Town of Natick I attest that the attached copy is the approved copy of the Minutes for the following meeting:

Finance Committee
Town of Natick
Minutes for the meeting of October 06,2022

Meeting Location: Natick Town Hall, Select Board Meeting Room And virtual by Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89344253078>

Meeting ID: 893 4425 3078

Passcode: 979080

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,89344253078# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Notice to the Public: 1) Finance Committee meetings may be broadcast/recorded by Natick Pegasus. 2) The meeting is an open public meeting and interested parties can attend the meeting. 3) Those seeking to make public comments (for topics not on the agenda or for specific agenda items) are requested to submit their comments advance, by 2:00PM on the day of the meeting, to fincom@natickma.org. Comments will be posted on NovusAgenda and read aloud for the proper agenda item. Please keep comments to 350-400 words. 4) The Chat function on Zoom Conferencing will be disabled

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

AGENDA

- 1) Call to Order
 - Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence
 - Advisement of Pegasus Live Broadcast and Recording for On-Demand viewing
 - Review of Agenda
- 2) Announcements
- 3) Public Comments
- 4) Meeting Minutes
- 5) 2022 Fall Town Meeting Warrant Articles - Public Hearing
 - Article 15: Capital Equipment and Improvement
 - Article 2: Fiscal 2023 Omnibus Budget
 - Article 11: Collective Bargaining
 - Article 5: Stabilization Fund
 - Article 6: Operational/Rainy Day Stabilization Fund
 - Article 7: Capital Stabilization Fund
 - Article 8: OPEB Appropriation or Transfer of Funds
 - Article 12: Home Rule Petition: Natick Police Officers - Exemption from Civil Service
 - Article 13: Home Rule Petition: Natick Superior Officers - Exemption from Civil Service

- 6) Committee and Sub-committee Scheduling
- 7) Committee Discussion (for items not on the agenda)
- 8) Adjourn

Members present; Note R-denotes members attending remotely

Hossam Behery - R
Linda Wollschlager
Patti Sciarra
David Coffey-R
Richard Pope
Todd Gillenwater
Cody Jacobs - R
Kat Monahan - R
Daniel Zitnick - R
Betty Yobaccio
Phillip Rooney - R
Daniel Zitnick - R

Motion made by Mr. Coffey, seconded by Mr. Gillenwater to open the public hearing for the Fall 2022 Town Meeting Warrant, passed by a vote of 12-0-0.

Roll call

Mr. Behery - yes
Mr. Coburn - yes
Mr. Coffey - yes
Mr. Gillenwater - yes
Mr. Jacobs - yes
Ms. Monahan - yes
Mr. Pope - yes
Mr. Rooney - yes
Ms. Sciarra - yes
Mr. Zitnick - yes
Ms. Yobaccio -yes
Ms. Wollschlager – yes

Article 15: Capital Equipment - Motions A to G

Presented by Mr. Jon Marshall. On September 29, Article 15 was reconsidered, due to the addition of a new motion H, which was voted at that meeting. The hearing on Motions A-G was continued to this

meeting.

Mr. Zitnick asked a question relative to the vehicle life of the police cruisers. Mr. Marshall explained that the police cars had a shorter life because they are used 24/7.

Ms. Yobaccio asked why PFAS filters are a capital expense, given their one-to-two-year lifespan. Mr. Marshall answered we were anticipating that we would get a longer life out of the filter media when we put this capital improvement program together back in December

Mr. Rooney also asked about why this was in Capital. Mr. Marshall explained because this was the same funding source so for this one time it made sense to slot it here.

Motion made by Mr. Gillenwater, seconded by Mr. Coburn to recommend Favorable Action on the subject matter of Article 15 motions A-G as summarized and posted in the meeting materials.

Roll Call

Mr. Behery - yes
Mr. Coburn - yes
Mr. Coffey - yes
Mr. Gillenwater - yes
Mr. Jacobs - yes
Ms. Monahan - yes
Mr. Pope - yes
Mr. Rooney - yes
Ms. Sciarra - yes
Mr. Zitnick - yes
Ms. Yobaccio -yes
Ms. Wollschlager - yes

Motion passed by a vote of 12-0-0

Article 2: Omnibus Budget

Mr. John Townsend presented the Article and pointed out that the expenditures under Article 2 are to be funded by the use of ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds for a total expenditure of \$2,064,110.00, with. The bulk of the expenses are to fund Collective Bargaining settlements. Due to a change in regulations, the Town is eligible for \$6.6 in ARPA funds, with \$2.5M proposed for FY23. \$1,882,775 is in Motion A, with \$181,335 in Water/Sewer salaries in Motion B.

Article 11: Collective Bargaining

Mr. Townsend and Mr. Jamie Errickson presented the Article. It is necessary to fund Collective Bargaining settlements with several town employee units, including newly settled agreements with the Facilities, Firefighters and Deputy Fire Chiefs unions. The funds in the amount of \$138,662 are to be moved from the Select Board Expense budget, as funded by the Fall 2021 Town Meeting.

Mr. Jacobs asked about the use of one-time ARPA funds to pay for annual expenses. Mr. Errickson stated that the intent is that as the economy recovers from COVID, there will be an increase in revenue to the town.

Mr. Rooney asked about the financial forecast and how the use of one-time funds such as ARPA affects the budget and the town's actual financial forecast. It was answered that the expectation that increased revenue will help but the town is looking at other alternative revenue.

Mr. Coffey asked if the Fire Dept. budget and staffing increases will result in the previously stated goal of staffing the second ambulance and running out of West Natick. Chief Jason Ferschke answered that this addition helps get closer to that goal but they are not there yet.

Motion made by Mr. Gillenwater, seconded by Ms. Sciarra for Favorable Action on Article 2, Motion A in the amount of \$1,882,775, the funds to be allocated from ARPA funds. In debate, several members raised concern over using one-time funds for salaries and the future effect on budgets when these funds are no longer available.

Roll Call

Mr. Behery - yes
Mr. Coburn - yes
Mr. Coffey - yes
Mr. Gillenwater - yes
Mr. Jacobs - yes
Ms. Monahan - yes
Mr. Pope - yes
Mr. Rooney - yes
Ms. Sciarra - yes
Mr. Zitnick - yes
Ms. Yobaccio - yes
Ms. Wollschlager - yes

The motion carries by a vote of 12-0-0

Mr. Gillenwater moves Favorable Action, seconded by Ms. Sciarra on Article 2 Motion B.

Roll Call

Mr. Behery - yes
Mr. Coburn - yes
Mr. Coffey - yes
Mr. Gillenwater - yes
Ms. Monahan - yes

Mr. Pope – yes
Mr. Rooney – yes
Ms. Sciarra - yes
Mr. Zitnick - yes
Ms. Yobaccio -yes
Ms. Wollschlager - yes

Motion carries by a vote of 11-0-0

Article 11: Collective Bargaining

Motion made by Mr. Gillenwater, seconded by Ms. Sciarra that funds in the amount of \$ 138,662 be allocated from the Select Board expenses as funded by the Fall 2021 Town Meeting to pay for collective bargaining settlements.

Roll Call

Mr. Behery - yes
Mr. Coburn - yes
Mr. Coffey - yes
Mr. Gillenwater - yes
Mr. Jacobs - yes
Ms. Monahan - yes
Mr. Pope - yes
Mr. Rooney - yes
Ms. Sciarra - yes
Mr. Zitnick - yes
Ms. Yobaccio -yes
Ms. Wollschlager - yes

Motion carries by a vote of 12-0-0

Motion made by Mr. Gillenwater, seconded by Ms. Sciarra that Articles 5,6 and 7 be postponed for consideration until October 13, 2022.

Roll Call

Mr. Behery - yes
Mr. Coburn - yes
Mr. Coffey - yes
Mr. Gillenwater - yes
Mr. Jacobs - yes
Ms. Monahan - yes
Mr. Pope - yes
Mr. Rooney - yes

Ms. Sciarra - yes
Mr. Zitnick - yes
Ms. Yobaccio -yes
Ms. Wollschlager – yes

Motion carries by a vote of 12-0-0

Mr. Frank Foss, Town Moderator, did recommend that Town Meeting could delay its consideration of these Articles to allow enough time that they receive due consideration.

Article 8: Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Appropriation or Transfer of Funds

Upon the recommendation of the town administration, No Action was moved by Mr. Coburn, seconded by Mr. Gillenwater. It was also recommended that this article be placed on the Consent Agenda.

Roll Call

Mr. Behery - yes
Mr. Coburn - yes
Mr. Coffey - yes
Mr. Gillenwater - yes
Mr. Jacobs - yes
Ms. Monahan - yes
Mr. Pope - yes
Mr. Rooney - yes
Ms. Sciarra - yes
Mr. Zitnick - yes
Ms. Yobaccio -yes
Ms. Wollschlager - yes

Motion carries by a vote of 12-0-0

Article 12: Home Rule Petition: Natick Patrol Officers – Exemption from Civil Service

Article 13: Home Rule Petition: Natick Superior Officers – Exemption from Civil Service

Mr. Errickson asked that consideration be delayed. The subject matter is part of negotiations with the collective bargaining units of these unions.

Motion made by Mr. Gillenwater, seconded by Ms. Sciarra of No Action on the subject matter of Articles 12 & 13.

Roll Call Article 12

Mr. Behery - yes
Mr. Coburn - abstain
Mr. Coffey - yes
Mr. Gillenwater - yes
Mr. Jacobs - yes
Ms. Monahan - yes
Mr. Pope - yes
Mr. Rooney – yes
Ms. Sciarra - yes
Mr. Zitnick - yes
Ms. Yobaccio -yes
Ms. Wollschlager - yes

Motion passed by a vote of 11-0-1

Roll call Article 13

Mr. Behery - yes
Mr. Coburn - abstain
Mr. Coffey - yes
Mr. Gillenwater - yes
Mr. Jacobs - yes
Ms. Monahan - yes
Mr. Pope - yes
Mr. Rooney - yes
Ms. Sciarra - yes
Mr. Zitnick - yes
Ms. Yobaccio -yes
Ms. Wollschlager – yes

Motion passed by a vote of 11-0-1

Motion made by Mr. Gillenwater, seconded by Ms. Sciarra to close the public hearing on the Fall 2022 Town Meeting Warrant.

Roll Call

Mr. Behery - yes
Mr. Coburn - yes
Mr. Coffey - yes
Mr. Gillenwater - yes
Mr. Jacobs - yes
Ms. Monahan - yes

Mr. Pope - yes
Mr. Rooney - yes
Ms. Sciarra - yes
Mr. Zitnick - yes
Ms. Yobaccio -yes
Ms. Wollschlager – yes

Committee Discussion

Next meeting of the Finance Committee is scheduled for October 13, 2022. The Planning Board articles are being heard tonight. The town administration may have final free cash numbers.

Motion made by Mr. Gillenwater, seconded by Ms. Sciarra to adjourn

Roll Call

Mr. Behery - yes
Mr. Coburn - yes
Mr. Coffey - yes
Mr. Gillenwater - yes
Mr. Jacobs - yes
Ms. Monahan - yes
Mr. Pope - yes
Ms. Sciarra - yes
Mr. Zitnick - yes
Ms. Yobaccio -yes
Ms. Wollschlager - yes

Motion carried by a vote of 11-0-0 Meeting

Adjourned at 9:27 PM