



FINANCE COMMITTEE
Town of Grafton
30 Providence Road
Grafton, MA 01519
(508) 839-5335 x 1201
www.grafton-ma.gov

2023 MAR 10 AM 11:30

RECEIVED TOWN CLERK
GRAFTON MA

Finance Committee
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, January 18, 2023
7:00PM
Conference Room A
AND
via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm by Chair Mark Haddad. In attendance by roll call were Chair Mark Haddad, Vice Chair Greg Marr, Clerk Angelina Correia via Zoom, Skip Currier, Dan Cusher, Victoria Duckworth, Heather McCue via Zoom, and Sue Robbins. Nick Rioux was absent. Select Board members in attendance were Chair Colleen Roy, Vice Chair Mat Often, and Ann Marie Foley. Staff in attendance were Town Administrator Evan Brassard, Finance Director Mary Lauria via Zoom, Assistant Town Administrator William Blake, and Administrative Assistant Amber Diffenderfer via Zoom.

1. Public Hearing: Presentation of the FY24 Operating and Capital Budgets by the Town Administrator

Mr. Haddad read the legal notice.

Mr. Currier made a motion seconded by Mr. Marr to open the public hearing. Motion passed 8 – 0 by roll call vote.

Mr. Brassard gave the Fiscal Year 2024 Municipal Operating Budget presentation.

3. Schedule Upcoming Finance Committee Meetings

Mr. Haddad stated that Mr. Brassard would have the proposed budget posted on ClearGov by February 8th. Mr. Brassard agreed to attend all the upcoming Finance Committee meetings to review the departmental budgets and recommended that they vote on the budget mid-March.

Mr. Haddad suggested that the Finance Committee meet with the School Department on Wednesday, March 8 at 7:00pm and review the rest of the departments' budgets on Saturday, March 11. Mr. Haddad and Mr. Brassard agreed to have the Finance Committee vote on the budget at their March 15 meeting, which will also include their review of the Blackstone Valley Tech budget. Mr. Haddad also invited the Select Board members to attend these meetings.

Mr. Haddad stated that the next meeting would be January 25 via Zoom to assign Committee members to review each departmental budget.

1. Public Hearing: Presentation of the FY24 Operating and Capital Budgets by the Town Administrator (Continued)

Ms. Robbins and Mr. Haddad spoke on the importance of not allowing the Public Schools budget to be lower than the \$43.4M that Mr. Brassard presented.

Mr. Often asked Mr. Brassard to look into the trend of the Reserve Ratio and stated that if it is decreasing, he would like to see it as a budget priority next year. He also noted the growth in the police department's budget in recent years and suggested that the Committee look at the Override Capacity and Levy Capacity separately.

Mr. Haddad asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

Mr. Currier made a motion seconded by Mr. Marr to close the public hearing. Motion passed 8 – 0 by roll call vote.

2. Meeting Minutes

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| a. October 25, 2017 | k. June 9, 2020 |
| b. March 21, 2018 | l. October 19, 2020 |
| c. May 2, 2018 | m. October 31, 2020 |
| d. April 30, 2019 | n. June 6, 2021 |
| e. May 1, 2019 | o. October 4, 2021 |
| f. December 2, 2019 | p. April 14, 2022 |
| g. March 21, 2020 | q. April 20, 2022 |
| h. March 25, 2020 | r. April 26, 2022 |
| i. April 4, 2020 | s. October 17, 2022 |
| j. April 11, 2020 | |

Mr. Marr made a motion seconded by Mr. Cusher to approve the minutes (a) through (s) as listed on the Finance Committee agenda for Wednesday, January 18. Motion passed 7 – 0 by roll call vote. Mr. Currier abstained.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11pm by Mr. Haddad.

Finance Committee meeting materials are available at: <https://www.grafton-ma.gov/AgendaCenter/Finance-Committee-6>

A recording of this meeting is available at: <https://youtu.be/xkMMxglqQVQ>