



FINANCE COMMITTEE
Town of Grafton
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2023 MAY 16 AM 10:18

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Finance Committee
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, April 26, 2023
7:00PM
via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm by Chair Mark Haddad. In attendance were Chair Mark Haddad, Vice Chair Greg Marr, Clerk Angelina Correia, Skip Currier, Dan Cusher, Victoria Duckworth, and Sue Robbins. Heather McCue and Nick Rioux were absent. Also in attendance were Town Administrator Evan Brassard, Assistant Town Administrator William Blake, and Administrative Assistant Amber Diffenderfer.

1. JOINT MEETING with the Town Moderator and Select Board: Pre-Town Meeting Review

Select Board members in attendance were Colleen Roy, Andy Jefferson, and Ann Marie Foley.

Town Moderator Dawn Anderson reviewed the procedures for motions and consent agendas.

The following plans for Town Meeting were discussed:

- Mr. Haddad will read the State of the Town Message at the podium.
- The Finance Committee will be seated on the stage.
- Doug Bowman will give an update from the Library Planning & Building Committee.
- Town Clerk Kandy Lavallee will read each category of the Compressed Budget.
- Mr. Blake and Mr. Brassard will prepare the electronic voting devices.
- GCTV will test the audio equipment several times before Town Meeting.
- The stairs on the side opposite from the ASL interpreters will be used to access the stage.
- Mr. Brassard will present slides about the budget and George Hill Road.
- Ms. Anderson will state in her opening remarks that closed captioning is available.
- The 8th Grade Civics classes will be attending and may sit where they like.
- Mr. Blake will print 200 copies of the quick guide.
- National Honor Society Students will bring the microphones to voters in the audience.
- Mr. Jefferson will read the Select Board's land acknowledgement at the podium after Ms. Roy says the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Brassard stated that the Department of Revenue has determined that Article 35 is not legal, and he has notified the petitioner. Ms. Anderson agreed to speak with Town Counsel about the procedure for this article at Town Meeting.

Ms. Anderson and Mr. Brassard discussed passing over Article 33 because it had been withdrawn by the petitioner.

To answer a question from Ms. Anderson, Mr. Haddad and Mr. Marr stated that Article 31 will require a majority vote. Mr. Blake stated that the required votes will be listed in the printed copies of the warrant.

Mr. Blake stated that the motions for each article had been reviewed by Town Counsel.

Ms. Roy requested that the flag be placed on the correct side of the stage, which Mr. Marr stated was stage right.

Ms. Foley requested that the students responsible for the microphones look out for raised hands in the audience. She and Ms. Anderson discussed offering childcare or a separate space for families during Town Meetings in the future. Ms. Anderson agreed to confirm the total number of voters present at the opening of the meeting and state the vote counts for each motion.

Mr. Brassard agreed to distribute the warrant via CodeRED text/email and prepare a George Hill Road information sheet. Mr. Blake stated that copies of the warrant would be available at the three post offices, Bushel 'N Peck, the library, the Senior Center, and the Town Clerk's Office.

2. Consider Vote to Approve Town Meeting Warrant Article Recommendations

Mr. Blake listed the errors that were brought to his attention by Mr. Marr and stated that they had been corrected.

Mr. Marr suggested that more information be added to the recommendations for Article 32 and Article 35 based on the Finance Committee's discussions. Mr. Cusher noted that in the past, as required by the Charter, the recommendations have included explanations of the Finance Committee's position.

Mr. Brassard agreed to draft the explanations for each recommendation with Mr. Blake.

The Finance Committee agreed to meet on Monday, May 1 at 3:00pm to consider approving the revised recommendations. Mr. Blake stated that copies of the warrant would be distributed after the meeting.

3. Meeting Minutes

Ms. Robbins made a motion seconded by Mr. Currier to recommend the minutes for April 11, April 12, and April 13 of 2023 as written.

Mr. Marr asked why the minutes for April 13 did not show all nine members voting. Mr. Haddad noted that Mr. Cusher had left the meeting, which was stated in the minutes.

Motion passed 7 – 0 by roll call vote.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48pm by Mr. Haddad.

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