



FINANCE COMMITTEE
Town of Grafton
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Finance Committee
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, June 20, 2023
6:00PM
Conference Room A
AND
via Zoom

RECEIVED TOWN CLERK
GRAFTON, MA
2023 AUG 24 1 PM 12:15

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:02pm by Vice Chair Greg Marr. In attendance were Vice Chair Greg Marr, Skip Currier, Dan Cusher, Victoria Duckworth, and Sue Robbins. Mark Haddad, Angelina Correia, Heather McCue, and Nick Rioux were absent. Staff in attendance was Administrative Assistant Amber Diffenderfer.

1. Joint Meeting with the Finance Committee Appointment Committee

Finance Committee Appointment Committee members in attendance were Town Moderator Dawn Anderson, Town Clerk Kandy Lavallee via Zoom, and Finance Committee Representative Greg Marr.

➤ Annual Appointments

Ms. Anderson stated that two members have asked to be reappointed, and there is one vacancy left by the retirement of Sue Robbins.

Kyle James introduced himself and noted that he also applied for a vacancy the previous year. He spoke about his experience as an election warden and member of the Capital Improvement Planning Committee (CIPC). He explained his interest in serving on the Finance Committee.

Prompted by Ms. Anderson, Mr. James described the work he has done on CIPC.

To answer a question from Ms. Robbins, Mr. James stated that he understood the differences between corporate finance and municipal finance.

Mr. Marr asked if Mr. James was aware of the time required for meetings during budget season and leading up to Town Meeting. Mr. James appreciated that the meetings are frequent.

Ms. Lavallee asked how Mr. James works as a team member. Mr. James responded that he is an active listener and values others' perspectives.

Ed Prisby introduced himself and spoke about serving on the Planning Board, Affordable Housing Trust, Finance Committee, and Select Board. He noted that this is a critical time financially for Grafton and a great deal of institutional knowledge will be lost with Ms. Robbins' leaving.

Mr. Prisby agreed with Mr. Marr that he understood the time commitment after serving on the Finance Committee in the past.

Ms. Lavalley asked how Mr. Prisby works as a team member. Mr. Prisby responded that he is always learning and recognizes others' skillsets and perspectives.

Mr. Marr asked Mr. Prisby to speak as a member of the Affordable Housing Trust about any connections between the Trust and the Finance Committee. Mr. Prisby listed asset allocation, economic development, and strengthening the workforce as connections.

To answer a question from Ms. Anderson, Mr. Prisby agreed that he would be able to manage his time between the Trust meetings and the Finance Committee meetings.

Ms. Robbins supported reappointing Mr. Haddad and Ms. McCue. She appreciated Mr. James and Mr. Prisby as candidates but suggested giving the newcomer a chance.

Mr. Carrier spoke about the Finance Committee's role in reviewing the warrant rather than being directly involved in the Town's finances.

Ms. Duckworth agreed that Mr. Haddad and Ms. McCue should be reappointed. She highlighted the knowledge that will be lost with Ms. Robbins' retirement and recommended appointing the candidate with more experience.

Mr. Cusher noted that some of the current Finance Committee members are very experienced. He supported bringing in a new person.

Mr. Marr spoke about Mr. James and Mr. Prisby's involvement on other committees in town and stated that he is leaning towards appointing Mr. James.

Mr. Cusher described the experience that Mr. Prisby could bring to the Finance Committee if faced with another override.

Ms. Duckworth appreciated the potential to add a fresh voice to the committee with Mr. James.

Ms. Anderson noted that members of boards and committees often ask how much is left from the last override and stated that she expects this issue to come up during the term of this appointment. She supported appointing Mr. Prisby for his experience but also acknowledged Mr. James' understanding of these circumstances.

The Finance Committee Appointment Committee voted to reappoint Mark Haddad to the Finance Committee for a term expiring June 30, 2026.

The Finance Committee Appointment Committee voted to reappoint Heather McCue to the Finance Committee for a term expiring June 30, 2026.

Ms. Anderson noted the difficulty of the decision.

Mr. Prisby withdrew his candidacy.

The Finance Committee Appointment Committee voted to appoint Kyle James to the Finance Committee for a term expiring June 30, 2026.

The Finance Committee Appointment Committee voted to approve their meeting minutes from September 14, 2022.

The Finance Committee Appointment Committee voted to adjourn at 6:35pm.

2. Meeting Minutes: May 8, 2023

Mr. Currier stated that he abstained from the vote on May 8 to approve the Reserve Fund Transfer to the Nelson Memorial Park & Library Trust Expense Account.

Ms. Robbins made a motion seconded by Mr. Currier to accept the meeting minutes from May 8, 2023 as amended. Motion passed 5 – 0.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Marr at 6:36pm.

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/yds-jP31A4I>