

## WEST NEWBURY FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date, Time, Location: **Th. April 21, 2022, 6 PM** (1910 Bldg.)

Attendees (& initials): Gary Roberts (GR), Chris Wile (CEW), Walter Burmeister (WB), Jim Sperelakis (JS), Angus Jennings (AJ), Stephanie Frontiera (SF). Absent: Nathan Kelly (NK)  
Guests/Participants (+ Depts): Wendy Reed (Select Board)

### **Meeting Minutes – April 21, 2022**

1. Call to Order: 6:00 PM
2. Public Comment: None
3. Approval of Minutes: March 15 & March 29, 2022 meeting minutes.  
Motion to approve: GR. 2<sup>nd</sup>: WB **Approved 4-0.**
4. Review of remaining ATM & STM Articles:
  - a. **Revolving Funds - ATM Article 8 (Orig. Art. 9)**: Motion to Approve: GR. 2<sup>nd</sup>: CEW. AJ highlighted that the max limit of several revolving fund accounts were modified to bring closer to actual spending, as follows:
    - i. Summer Rec Program: \$75K
    - ii. GAR Library Fines: \$10K
    - iii. Police Vehicle: \$20K
    - iv. Pipestave/Mill Pond Maint: \$ 5K
    - v. EV Charging Stations: \$10K
    - vi. Curbside Trash & Recycle: \$50K**Approved 4-0.**
  - b. **Unbudgeted Personnel Costs - ATM Article 11 (Orig. Art. 12)**: Motion to Approve: GR. 2<sup>nd</sup>: CEW. \$75K requested to fund any unbudgeted personnel costs, as a consequence of the comprehensive personnel wage/classification study, already underway. If the compensation of Town employees are found to be inadequate in comparison to peers, the funding in this article would be used to rectify any gaps. CEW asked, what is the strategy if the Study determines that Town employees are overcompensated? AJ replied that, in his opinion, employees would not see immediate salary reductions, but perhaps 'caps' on annual COLA. He stressed that these personnel/wage policies would need to be reviewed with Select Board. **Approved 4-0.**
  - c. **Water Dept System Study/STM Article 2**: The original amount of this funding request was \$27K, which the FinCom voted in favor 5-0, on 3/29/22. See 3/29 FC mtg minutes for details. Subsequently, the Bd of Water Commissioners, Select Board (SB) & Town Mgr. have significantly expanded the scope of the project, inclu. a new \$15K water rate study. CW made a motion to reopen/reconsider the 3/29/22 vote. 2<sup>nd</sup>: WB. **Motion to reconsider passed 3-1**, with GR voting against. GR asked why the SB has not yet voted on this Article? AJ responded that the SB

has discussed, with a seeming willingness to approve the expanded scope/funding, but have not yet formally voted. WB asked if the vendor (Tata & Howard) was the only vendor solicited? AJ stated yes, but this sole bid is/was a subject discussed and debated within the Water Board. AJ added that engineering costs (which this study is considered) does not count against the State 30B Procurement procedure threshold. AJ also mentioned that the reason this appears on the STM, as opposed to ATM, is that, if passed, the funding is immediate and would be better timed with the impending retirement of the Town Water Superintendent, Mike Gootee. Motion to approve adjusted amount: CEW. 2<sup>nd</sup>: WB. **Approved 4-0. Sunset date 6/30/24.**

- d. **Rescind \$1.25M of \$1.5M Borrowing Authorization for Soldiers & Sailors Bldg. - STM Article 3:** Motion to Approve: WB. 2<sup>nd</sup>: CEW. **Approved 4-0.**
  - e. **FinCom did not take up STM Articles 4 & 5** – both articles relate to future disposition of the Soldiers & Sailors Bldg/Site. GR commented that these articles were brought forward by the SB, they had not yet voted on them, and they should be the first Town entity to vote on the Articles.
5. **Adjournment:** Motion to Adjourn: GR. 2<sup>nd</sup>: WB. Approved 4-0. 6:35 PM