

MEETING MINUTES-WEST NEWBURY
FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date & Time: Tuesday October 15th , 2019 7pm

Location : 1910 Building Senior Center

Attendees: Gary L. Roberts Jr., Forbes Durey, Nathan Kelly, Jim Sperelakis, Jessica Knezek, Angus Jennings

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

Minutes from 10/8/19 approved 6-0.

2. Consider remaining Articles involving free cash transfer

Article buying down the town's tax rate. Jennings is recommending \$240,000 free cash transfer to buy down the tax rate, similar to last year.

Vote 6:0 approve.

3. Reserve Fund Transfer request

DPW is requesting a \$17,614 Reserve Fund Transfer to replace the Paige School Kitchen Cooker. Kelly questioned who is ultimately responsible for replacing equipment within the school, with concerns that approval of this item could establish a precedent where the Town becomes responsible for more items within the school that normally the School District would be responsible for. Roberts questioned who bought the initial kitchen steamer- if it was the School District then they should probably replace it, if the Town originally bought the unit, then the Town should replace it. Jennings notes that the language in Pentucket's Lease Agreement states that, "the district shall be responsible for all improvements, maintenance, repairs and replacements of any equipment, material and personal property leased to the District herein or owned by the District". Beaudoin asked that the vote be delayed until the information on the original purchaser can be determined. Vote for this item was postponed.

4. Joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen to review Fall Town Meeting.

Article #2, \$11,500 landfill testing, FinCom 6-0 approve, Bos 3-0 approve, funding source - free cash, sunset 2020

Article #3, \$66,000 Gas migration trench, FinCom 6-0 approve, BoS 3-0 approve, sunset 2021, free cash

Article #4, \$50,000 high hazard trees, FinCom 6-0 approve, BoS 3-0 approve, sunset 2020, funding source free cash

Article #5, \$9,500 small salter unit, FinCom 6-0 approve, BoS 3-0 approve, funding source free cash, sunset 2020

Article #6, \$5,000 dehumidifiers for the library, FinCom 6-0 approve, sunset 2020, BoS 3-0 approve, funding source free cash

Article #7, \$2,600 Expenses related to air quality improvements for library, FinCom 6-0 approve, sunset 2020, BoS 2-1 approve Archibald opposing as he felt this was a normal operating expense that should be accounted for in the normal budget, Funding source free cash

Article #8, \$363,000 Housing authority, FinCom 4-1 approve, BoS 3-0 approve, funding source CPA funds

Article #9, \$600 Historic Marker, FinCom 6-0 approve, BoS 3-0 approve, funding source CPA funds

Article #10, \$1.5Million dollars for renovation of Soldier and Sailors Memorial Building, FinCom 1-5 disapprove, BoS 3-0 approve, funding source CPA Funds. Beaudoin asked that this item be deferred to the Annual town meeting as it is an elective expense that would best be voted on by as many voters as possible(with the annual town meeting being better attended then the special fall town meeting). Traditionally, the Fall town meeting is reserved for emergent issues that cannot wait until the Spring.

Article #11, \$15,000 Unemployment Insurance, FinCom 6-0 approve, BoS 3-0 approve

Article #12, \$400,000 to buy down the tax rate, FinCom 6-0 approve, BoS 3-0 approve, Jennings notes that \$240,000 is required to keep the Town's tax rate level.

Articles #13-16, zoning bylaw amendments(minor), FinCom 6-0 approve, BoS 3-0 approve

5. Adjournment