



## **TOWN OF HOPEDALE**

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### ***Finance Committee***

### **March 16, 2022, Meeting Minutes 7:00 pm, via Zoom**

#### **Attendees:**

##### *Present:*

E. Callahan, D. Comastra, C. Hodgens, D. Madigan, I. Michelson, C. Strapponi, K. Wilson

##### *Absent:*

P. Maloney, D. Piatt

The Finance Committee meeting was opened at 7:01 pm by Chris Hodgens.

#### **Votes:**

1. The minutes of February 9, 2022 were presented. All voted in favor.
2. Transfer of \$9,000 from the reserve account to the Fire Department. All voted in favor.

#### **Events:**

##### **1. Public Safety FY23 Budget Request**

###### **a. Police Department**

Chief Giovanella reviewed the Department's initial budget request for FY23 and shared an excel workbook with a summary spreadsheet and detail broken out on supplemental tabs within the workbook. He also reviewed capital requests for the department including a hybrid Ford Explorer and a motorcycle. The Explorer is a part of the Special Town Meeting Request for March 26, 2022. To date, approximately \$7,000 has been spent on repairs to the current vehicle and the department intends for the vehicle to be traded in.

###### **b. Fire Department**

- i. Chief Daige reviewed the Department's initial budget request for FY23 and shared an excel workbook with a summary spreadsheet and detail broken out on supplemental tabs within the workbook. Included in the budget request is a description of restructuring of personnel to allow for the formation of teams that rotate duty/on call assignments. Several edits to the budget were proposed by the Chief during the presentation to be implemented in a future iteration of the request.
- ii. A transfer of \$9,000 from the reserve account was requested to cover contractual obligation costs associated with a member of the Fire Department receiving certification as a paramedic. Diana Schindler noted the current balance in the reserve account is estimated at \$30,000.

2. Upcoming Meetings

- a. **Wednesday March 23, 2022:** The Finance Committee will discuss and make favorable/unfavorable recommendations on all Special Town Meeting articles apart from those related to 364 West Street.
- b. **Thursday March 24, 2022:** The Finance Committee will attend a public information session regarding articles related to 364 West Street. At the conclusion of that meeting the Finance Committee will make favorable/unfavorable recommendations.

3. The Committee discussed having future Special or Annual Town Meeting articles split out individually vs. grouping items together to allow greater flexibility for the Finance Committee and general public to be specific in their intentions for the use of public funds.

The Chair called the meeting to Adjournment at 8:54pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Elizabeth S. Callahan*

Recording Secretary  
Hopedale Finance Committee