



TOWN OF HOPEDALE

78 Hopedale Street - P.O. Box 7
Hopedale, Massachusetts 01747

Tel: 508-634-2203 Fax: 508-634-2200

Finance Committee

February 3, 2021 Meeting Minutes 6:00 pm, via Zoom

Attendees:

Finance Committee

Present:

E. Callahan, C. Hodgens, D. Madigan, P. Maloney,

Absent:

D. Comastra, D. Piatt, C. Strapponi

The Finance Committee meeting was opened at 6:04pm by Chris Hodgens.

Votes:

Meeting minutes for January 21, 2021 were presented. A typographical error regarding the date of the next meeting was noted. A motion was made to accept the minutes; all voted in favor.

Events:

1. The committee reviewed various elements to consider in the development of the upcoming budget:
 - a. The Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) and Governor Baker's administration put forth a proposed increase of 3.5% Unrestricted General Government Aid (UGGA).
 - b. All department heads have turned in initial preliminary budgets and commentary.
 - c. Patrick Maloney is setting up a meeting with Blackstone Valley Tech.
2. The committee discussed emails and reports forwarded from Diana Schindler, Town Administrator:
 - a. Clarification on the FY21 debt schedule is necessary; a memo from the Town Administrator indicates an incorrect figure may have been used in forecasting FY21.
 - b. Anticipated revenue from cannabis operations needs to be reflected and clearly marked in the budget documents.

- c. Account titles in the budget documents need to be clarified (ex.: Beeper in the Water & Sewer Department is actually for call-back pay, not a physical pager device)
 - d. Email accounts for elected and appointed officials are to be established and costs reflected in the budget
 - e. An update on the trash collection fees and potential changes is necessary
3. The Finance Committee will cluster together smaller departments for budget discussion and reserve larger blocks of time for larger departments. Potential dates:
 - a. February 10, 2021 7:00pm
 - b. February 17, 2021 7:00pm
 - c. February 27, 2021 – potential long Saturday session
4. The Chair made reference to a potential settlement agreement regarding the purchase of land discussed in previous meetings. Information will be forwarded at a future time.

The Finance Committee Chair called the meeting to Adjournment at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth S. Callahan

Recording Secretary
Hopedale Finance Committee