



## **TOWN OF HOPEDALE**

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### ***Finance Committee***

#### **April 14, 2021 Meeting Minutes 6:00 pm, via Zoom**

##### **Attendees:**

##### **Finance Committee**

##### ***Present:***

E. Callahan, D. Comastra, C. Hodgens, P. Maloney, K. Wilson

##### ***Absent:***

D. Madigan, D. Piatt, C. Strapponi

The Finance Committee meeting was opened at 6:04pm by Chris Hodgens. Proceedings were held briefly to attempt to rectify audio recording issues. The meeting was recorded by the Chair and resumed at 6:11pm.

##### **Votes:**

##### **Events:**

1. Chris Hodgens gave an overview of the Google drive and shared his screen for the viewing public to observe. Development of this tool will continue.
2. Updates were shared regarding education and transparency efforts:
  - a. Elizabeth Callahan has drafted a Citizen's Guide to Open Town Meeting. Lisa Pedroli is reviewing the document and has shared it with Town Moderator, Gene Phillips. A projected completion date is the end of April.
  - b. Patrick Maloney has continued conversations with Superintendent Fitzpatrick of Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School and Keath Christensen, Chief of Staff to Senator Ryan Fattman.
  - c. Ken Wilson is adding to the document he previously shared with committee members around alternative budgets.
3. Information around the impact of the American Recovery Act and how it will be implemented needs to be further defined. Chris Hodgens and Elizabeth Callahan will coordinate with the School Department.
4. The Committee discussed revising spreadsheets to depict override and no override scenarios.
5. Len Guertin requested to address The Committee to inquire about steps taken this year to better prepare for FY22, commented on the process for contracts and inquired about paying for the bridge.

6. Lori Hampsch spoke to the School Department's efforts to bring down their request through increasing fees, applications for grants, maximizing retirement situations, etc. The School Department budget sub-committee will be meeting April 15, 2021.
7. Carole Mullen inquired about the impact the revised budgets from department heads – has the “needle been moved”? Not all departments have submitted their modified requests. A more definitive answer should be available by the next meeting.
8. The Committee's next meeting date is set for April 21, 2021 at 6:00pm.

The Finance Committee Chair called the meeting to Adjournment at 6:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Elizabeth S. Callahan*

Recording Secretary  
Hopedale Finance Committee