



TOWN OF HOPEDALE

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Finance Committee

May 5, 2021 Meeting Minutes 6:00 pm, via Zoom

Attendees:

Present:

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

Absent:

D. Piatt, C. Strapponi

The Finance Committee meeting was opened at 6:03pm by Chris Hodgens.

Votes:

Minutes of the previous meeting were not available; item passed over.

Events:

1. Ken Wilson ran through the slide deck for public presentation. Areas still in need of development were cited. The possibility of developing a QR code was raised; Diana Schindler will research and advise how to make documents available electronically to the public.
2. Updates to the latest revision of the proposed FY22 Operating Budget.
 - a) Ambulance receipts were reviewed and updated
 - b) Application of Free Cash was updated
 - c) Town Accountant offered advice from DOR through Diana Schindler on setting the tax rate in regards to anticipated receipts. Lowering the projection was recommended.
 - d) Fire Department salary increases were implemented into the budget; top sheet that offers details will need updating

Board of Selectmen opened their meeting at 7:00pm

3. Chris Hodgens offered updates to the latest revision of the proposed FY22 Operating Budget
 - a) Brief overview of slide deck for public presentation
 - b) Use of Free Cash for FY22 proposed at \$363,836
 - c) Adjustment to Community Impact/discussion of naming the line item (\$112,500)

- d) Discussed the idea of debt exclusion and allow Free Cash to be utilized for capital purchases. This prevents the reshuffling of the budget should the debt exclusion not be accepted.
- e) Diana Schindler discussed the Community Compact Grant from 2017 – a review of capital was conducted and certain recommendations were made that had not been implemented.
- f) Chris Hodgins gave clarification around “budget cuts” in response to an inquiry from the Board of Selectmen; it was a reduction in requested new money, not a cut to existing budgeted funds
- g) Diana Schindler reviewed the articles for Special Town Meeting: Prior Year Bills and Current Year Overages

4. Important upcoming dates:

- Finance Committee will meet Monday May 10, 2021 at 6:00pm to review capital; Board of Selectmen will join at 7:00pm
- Annual Town Elections May 11, 2021
- Special Town Meeting will be held at 10:00am on May 22
- Annual Town Meeting will follow directly after Special Town Meeting

The Finance Committee Chair called the meeting to Adjournment at 7:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth S. Callahan

Recording Secretary
Hopedale Finance Committee