



TOWN OF HOPEDALE

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Finance Committee

June 23, 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 6:04pm by Chris Hodgens.

Votes:

1. The minutes of June 3, 2021 were not available for review or vote; this item will be reviewed and voted upon at an upcoming meeting.
2. The Conservation Commission submitted a request for a transfer of \$4,500 from reserve funds for the purposes of pruning/removing trees from an area in the Pinecrest neighborhood. All voted in favor.

Events:

1. The Chair reviewed shared updates from Governor Baker regarding public meetings. In-person meetings are permitted with virtual meetings continuing, as well through April 2022. With the introduction of virtual meetings the Town has seen an increase in public participation, particularly in Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee meetings; all recognize the importance of continuing to offer a variety of ways for the public to participate and be informed.
2. The Committee discussed advisory/policy papers to be written. Exploring what other communities have put in place was proposed. Elizabeth Callahan will pull together samples for review and discussion by the committee at a future meeting.
3. Communication of information on the upcoming debt exclusion vote was discussed. Regulations from the Office of Campaign & Political Finance were referenced in terms of information distribution, messaging and associated costs. At the conclusion of the discussion it was determined information would be available on the Town's website and the Town's "Code Red" system would be utilized to message, email and text residents who have signed up for this service. Chief Daige was on the call and offered to assist with the effort. He indicated this would reach approximately 4,000 residents.
4. The Board of Selectmen have signaled they wish to conduct a joint meeting after the debt exclusion vote to prioritize needs.

The Finance Committee will meet on July 12, 2021 at 7:00pm with the Board of Selectmen.

The Chair called the meeting to Adjournment at 7:39pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth S. Callahan

Recording Secretary
Hopedale Finance Committee