



TOWN OF HOPEDALE

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Finance Committee

October 25, 2021 Meeting Minutes 7:00 pm, via Zoom

Attendees:

Present:

E. Callahan, C. Hodgens, D. Madigan, C. Strapponi, K. Wilson

Absent:

D. Comastra, P. Maloney, D. Piatt

The Finance Committee joined a Select Board and Board of Health meeting already in session at 7:02 pm. The Committee was requested to join as topics on the agenda have financial impacts on the current year and future year's budgets. Select Board and Board of Health minutes will be under separate cover.

Votes: None taken.

Events:

1. An overview of the Trash and Recycling contract was offered by Don Howes representing the Board of Health. 3% per year for 5 years is currently being discussed with a change to the plan: bulk items will be billed to the taxpayer directly. Taxpayers are already paying for non-burnables separately and directly at this time. The Board of Health expressed there is not a strong concern with finding burnables in inappropriate locations. We are currently in a 20 year contract with Wheelabrator in conjunction with other towns. Joining with other towns has allowed Hopedale to pay a rate lower than what could have been negotiated independently. The agreement will be coming to an end FY24 or FY25 (Don Howes to confirm). This will be an ongoing topic for various town boards throughout the budget process for FY23.
2. The status of the Animal Control Officer position/function was reviewed. Topics regarding the administration of the program, contracting with an individual directly vs. joining a consortium/regional program and internal department supervision of the program were discussed at length. Fees for licenses were increased in May 2021. Concerns about the timely production of licensing events and follow-up for unlicensed animals (specifically chickens) were voiced. The Board of Health will be making recommendations in approximately 30 days for enhancements to this function.

The Chair closed the Finance Committee's portion of the meeting at 8:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth S. Callahan

Recording Secretary
Hopedale Finance Committee