

West Newbury Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: July 13, 2020; 6:30 PM

Location: Town Annex

Present: Gary Roberts, Nathan Kelly, Jessica Knezek, Jim Sperilakis, Angus Jennings, Stephanie Frontiera, Wayne Amaral. First and last initials used below to denote speaker.

- 1.) Call to Order: 6:34 PM
- 2.) Approval of Minutes: Approved 4-0-0.
- 3.) Public Comment: None.

4.) End of Year Transfers

Batch 1: DPW Transfers.

NK - my questions answered through email of additional information.

JS - please explain some of the overages of DPW expenses.

WA - unforeseen expenses with HVAC, difficult year, but able to do what we wanted to do.

AJ - we knew line item was on track to overspend. Got off to an unlucky start early on, causing streets paving line to get underspent. Bottom line, the department underspent its budget.

JS - Is it hard to predict road machinery expense line?

WA - line is usually overspent, but is really hard to predict.

Motion to Approve: 4-0-0

Batch 2: Finance Department Transfers

JS - Salary/Wage Line: what encompasses that line

AJ - turnover in accountant position, bad timing in the year, Mr. Morris, who had great prior experience and was recently retired, was hired part time last fall, at \$80/hour (expensive but helped with many transitions, allowing SF to not be buried as she started).

NK - contract with Mr. Morris for closeout for FY20 that is causing the encumbrance, looks like about \$16K - is that a per hour or total for the job? When will it get wrapped up.

AJ - negotiated 50/hr, expect it will cost a total of around \$10K

SF - hard to say when he will be done exactly, but likely by the end of August.

JS - Reserve fund?

NK - That's us.

Motion to Approve: 4-0-0

5.) Election of Officers

Chair: GR, 4-0-0

Vice Chair: JK, 4-0-0

Secretary: NK, 4-0-0

Capital Improvements Committee: NK, 4-0-0

Investment Policy Committee: JS, 4-0-0

6.) Discussion of Resident Letter to the Board of Selectmen

GR - resident wrote a letter expressing concern about votes of this committee. Some old issues, and some current issues. Our intent is not to upset anyone. We hope to express things better with our communication. No one has intentionally tried to do anything inappropriate. Some things in the letter are not true. Hope we could clarify some things for the resident. If you felt our recommendation would make the project not go forward, could understand why it would make people upset, but that is not what would have happened. Some of the issues brought up were not unanimous votes. Proud of the way the committee has worked together. Points out that JK wrote a letter supporting the committee despite the fact that all of her votes were in line with what the resident supported.

JS - agree with GR, and endorse what Brad Beaudoin wrote in the packet materials.

NK - endorses all said by GR, written by BB and JK. Our committee works hard and is respectful of differing opinions. Further, want to be clear, FinCom did not advise the town to do anything illegal. We questioned what the result would be if a "NO" vote occurred on ATM Article 14, and the answer was: the obligation would be paid out of free cash on the tax recap.

7.) Adjournment: 7:06 PM

Minutes by Kelly