



Ware

MASSACHUSETTS

Finance Committee
126 Main Street
Ware, MA 01082

Finance Committee Meeting

Meeting Location: Selectmen's Conference Room
Ware Town Hall – 126 Main Street

Meeting Dates: Thursday, Aug 19, 2021

Meeting Time: 7:00 pm

Meeting Agenda items to be discussed:

1. Covid Grant Spending
2. Capital Planning- Water, Sewer, Equipment
3. FY 2022 Budget Calendar
4. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes
5. Review of any emails or correspondence since last meeting

At the time of posting of this meeting notice and agenda the above items were the only items known. Should an additional item be brought forward, unless of an emergency nature, it will be placed on a future docket. The general public is invited to this and all meetings of the Ware Finance Committee. **THERE'S AN OPENING FOR ONE (1) NEW MEMBER; APPLY ON TOWN WEBSITE (WWW.TOWNOFWARE.COM) OR WITH TOWN MANAGER.**

Submitted by

Lynn Nenni
Chairman Finance Committee

Meeting Minutes: August 19, 2021

Members Present: Lynn Nenni, Devin Peterson, Ken Willette, Terry Smith

Special Guests: Stuart Beckley, Town Manager

The meeting was called to order at 7:05

Item 1) Covid Grant Spending

The Town Manager reviewed the funding available through the Cares Act and ARPA grants. He explained the Town is eligible to receive reimbursement for up to \$500,000 under the Cares Act for eligible costs incurred in connection with the Covid pandemic. All spending and related projects need to be received and completed by October 29, 2021. Stuart reviewed a list of eligible projects presented to the selectman and also indicated it would be a challenge to spend the entire amount of the grant by October 29th.

The committee and Town Manager discussed several possible uses of the Cares Act funding including establishment of an emergency shelter at the Senior Center, small business and resident grant programs, HVAC improvements at Town Hall and using outside agencies to help roll out grant eligible programs.

The Town Manager also reviewed the ARPA grant explaining that the town is expecting to receive approximately \$2.9 million over the next two years for the ARPA grant. Eligible costs include certain improvements improvement to the water and sewer systems, broadband, supplements to replace revenue losses to residents and businesses and for public health services in response to the pandemic.

The committee expressed interest in making a recommendation on the use of the ARPA funds as part of the decision process for its use.

Item 2) Capital Planning- Water, Sewer, Equipment

Terry updated the committee with the status of the sewer rate evaluation prepared by the towns consulting engineers and under review by the Water Resource Committee. He stated the Water Resource Committee had reviewed a draft report prepared by the engineers and discussed several questions that arose during their review surrounding their reliance on a capital planning study performed in 2016, and the inclusion of projects whose costs were determined to be outside the scope of the rate study. The consulting engineers agreed to revise their report based on the Water Resources Committee's review comments and report back in September.

The committee discussed whether or not it would be beneficial to combine the water and sewer departments. The Town Manager stated that more research and discussion was necessary prior to making this type of decision. The committee expressed interest in further research and discussion.

Item 3) FY 2022 Budget Calendar

Lynn stated she was working on a draft and planned to have it ready for the next meeting.

4) Approval of prior meeting minutes.

Ken Willette: Motion to approve minutes of July 15, 2021 meeting

Second: Terry Smith

Unanimously approved

The committee set the next meeting dates for September 9th and 23rd.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm.