



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, March 17, 2022

Meeting Time: 5:00 pm

Meeting Agenda items to be discussed:

1. Review of FY 2023 Budget- Building Department, Senior Center
2. Approval of prior meeting's minutes
3. 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 agenda. 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: March 17, 2022

Members Present: Lynn Nenni, Ken Willette, Terry Smith
Special Guests: Stuart Beckley, Town Manager; John Zienowicz, Council on Aging Executive Director; Anna Marques, Building Commissioner and Zoning Enforcement Officer

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm.

Item 1.) Review of FY 2023 Budget- Building Department, Senior Center

John Zienowicz, the town's Council on Aging Executive Director, reviewed his department's responsibilities and the FY 2023 budget request with the Finance Committee. He stated the Senior Center operated a wide variety of programs for seniors including meal preparation and delivery, recreational activities and also facilitated assistance with counseling, medical and other available assistance for seniors in need. He also stated that he is in the process of meeting the requirements to designate the town an Age and Dementia Friendly Community, which will enable the town to capitalize on grants opportunities that target individuals with dementia and senior citizens. John estimated the town's senior population (age 60 plus) was 2,400 and added that nationwide, for the first time in history, the number of adults in the 60 plus age category exceeded the number of young adults and children in the 18 and under category. The total FY 2023 request is \$201,025, an increase of \$27,555 or 15.9%. The request included \$2,000 to replace three toilets and a new part time positions- an activities director. The committee also discussed the condition of the building and John noted that building related repairs had been deferred by the capital planning committee pending the outcome of discussions by the selectman on a possible new recreation center. The committee also voiced concern over the expected increase in utility costs and noted that no increase in utilities was budgeted for FY 2023.

Anna Marques, the Building Commissioner and Zoning Enforcement Officer, reviewed her responsibilities and the FY 2023 budget request with the committee. She presented a chart that showed the interaction her department has with the town clerk's office and the police and fire departments which included approval and issuance of all types of building permits and inspections, investigation of complaints, emergency related inspections and code enforcement. She estimated that her time was split fairly evenly between building inspection and zoning and code enforcement. Anna also stated that she was working on updating the town's unkempt and vacant properties by-law for approval at the Annual Town Meeting.

The FY 2023 budget request increased \$34,245 or 22.3% to \$187,680. The increase included additional hours for part-time electrical and gas inspectors, a new part-time assistant building inspector position as well as additional funding for the "clean and lien" program. The committee discussed the funding requested and considered it important to help reduce the number of blighted properties in town.

The committee reviewed outstanding budgetary items to date with the Town Manager that required follow-up including:

The Library budget's capital request- whose budget should it be in, the Town's or the Library's.

The remaining balance of the Turley Building mortgage

Updating the expenditure and revenue projections to include the FY 2023 budget request and the additional cost of the body camera leases for the Police Department

The status of the pool and recreation center discussions

Discussion of solutions for bathrooms for the Parks Department

Discussion of the part-time building inspector position

The budget request for utility costs

Discussion of impact of mill rate reductions on budget

Capital planning requests

Item 2.) Approval of prior meeting minutes

Ken Willette: Motion to approve the minutes of the March 10 meeting

Terry Smith: Second

Unanimously approved

Item 3) Review of any emails or correspondence since last meeting

None noted

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Lynn Nenni

Finance Committee Chair