



# Ware

MASSACHUSETTS

Finance Committee  
126 Main Street  
Ware, MA 01082

Meeting Date: March 25, 2020  
Meeting Location: Selectmen's Conference Room

Fiscal Year 2020

Present: Denis R. Ouimette, Janice E. Hills, Devin M. Peterson and Lynn Nenni

Absent: none

Guest(s): Stuart Beckley, Town Manager (TM), Tracy Meehan (Town Accountant)

Quorum met; meeting opened at 5:01 p.m.

Reserve Fund: \$33,775.13

**Due to the pandemic outbreak of corona (Covid-19) virus outbreak, the Governor has announced an emergency order lifting the requirement of the Open Meeting Law to have public access be the physical location of the meeting provided there is a means of remote access. As such, all FinComm meetings for the foreseeable future will be by conference call. The number to connect is 1-425-650-1635. The access code is 265107.**

## New Business:

**Division of Local Services (DLS) Bulletin:** An Emergency Expenditures and Borrowing edict has come forth which will allow exceptional spending and borrowing with permission of the Director of the state DLS bureau due to the corona (COVID-19) viral pandemic.

**Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Questions:** Answers were reviewed with Stuart and Tracy; also discussed were the Indirect Costs of the School Department.

**FY'21 Budget:** Ideas to reduce the dependency on *Free Cash* has been postponed by Denis while we await the final draft from the TM.

## Old Business:

**2019 Audit Information:** We reviewed the answers provided by Tracy to Lynn's audit questions; the Town is currently undergoing its annual audit.

**Revenue Discussion:** We also reviewed the answers provided by the TM to revenue sources. Denis asked a series of questions: Why the drop in *Other Excise*? This is a result of eliminating the excise tax on farms and forests as voted on by a previous town meeting. Why the drop in *Other Departmental Revenue*? This category represents miscellaneous income which fluctuates; line item was as such budgeted conservatively. The same explanation was given for the drop in *Licenses and Permits*. The huge drop (from \$72,000 to \$16,000) in *Dept. Fees – Electrical Inspections* was due to solar installations; there's currently a moratorium on new solar farms and last year was a huge climb in said fees that was most likely an anomaly. There will be income from the pot shops once they formally open, but that income is only an estimate for now.

**March 5, 2020, minutes:** motion to approve by Devin, seconded by Janice passed by a 4-0 vote.

**March 23, 2020, minutes:** motion to approve by Devin, seconded by Janice passed by a 4-0 vote.

Next Meeting: March 30, 2020

**Annual Town Meeting: May 11, 2020**

Meeting adjourned at 6:03 pm by motion of Denis, seconded by Lynn and passed by a 4-0 vote.

March 25, 2020, minutes reviewed and approved:

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The Finance Committee has reviewed the minutes of the meeting held on February 25, 2016, and has approved them as presented. The committee also reviewed the minutes of the meeting held on March 25, 2020, and has approved them as presented.

The committee also reviewed the minutes of the meeting held on April 15, 2020, and has approved them as presented. The committee also reviewed the minutes of the meeting held on May 15, 2020, and has approved them as presented.

The committee also reviewed the minutes of the meeting held on June 15, 2020, and has approved them as presented. The committee also reviewed the minutes of the meeting held on July 15, 2020, and has approved them as presented.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_