



Ware

MASSACHUSETTS

Finance Committee
126 Main Street
Ware, MA 01082

Meeting Date: March 30, 2020
Meeting Location: Selectmen's Conference Room

Fiscal Year 2020

Present: Denis R. Ouimette, Janice E. Hills and Lynn Nenni
Absent: Devin M. Peterson
Guest(s): Stuart Beckley, Town Manager (TM)
Quorum met; meeting opened at 5:10 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:

FY'21 Budget: The \$15,000 requested for a *Human Resource* position to be split with the Town of Warren was agreed to be a worthwhile proposition as Ware does not have that position in town and is sorely needed; also, the position has been required since passage of the Town Charter on April 9, 2007.

A notice will be placed in the Town Budget package denoting that the use of *Free Cash* to balance the FY'2021 Budget includes payment for several one-time Capital items; namely: \$9,300 to the Police for a new front door, replacement of the large overhead window above that door and a new filing system software; \$40,000 to the Fire Department (\$15,000 to replace A/C unit in IT room & \$25,000 to replace 5 radios that are 25 years old); \$3,850 to the COA to replace an 11 year old copier; these total **\$53,150**.

Old Business:

Insurance Premium: Denis asked if increasing the town's deductible or combining (bundling) different types of insurance could reduce the town's annual premium from \$400,000 annually; the short answer: no.

FY'21 Budget discussion: Lynn's email about Fund Balance (Reserves after Expenditures are subtracted from Revenues) was discussed; the TA will email us with more accurate figures since the town audit is still ongoing. The trend is the reserves are building, but the Sewer Enterprise Fund is currently showing a negative balance. A rise in sewer rates will be recommended by FinComm if this continues to be the result.

March 25, 2020, minutes: motion to approve by Janice, seconded by Lynn passed by a 3-0 vote.

Next Meeting: March 31, 2020 **Annual Town Meeting: May 11, 2020**

Meeting adjourned at 5:41 pm by motion of Denis, seconded by Janice and passed by a 3-0 vote.

March 30, 2020, minutes reviewed and approved:
