



Ware

MASSACHUSETTS

Finance Committee
126 Main Street
Ware, MA 01082

Meeting Date: May 11, 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 (TM); Tracey Meehan (TA)
Quorum met; meeting opened at 5:18 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:

Ch. 44, s. 33B transfers: End-of-year transfers to balance the current (FY'20) budget. Transfers are allowed with the majority approval of both FinComm and the BOS. The transfers are from excess monies in one line item to another; for example, \$25,000 was transferred from *Streetlights #424-5200* to *Ambulance Salaries #231-5100*. Normally, there would not be anywhere near this amount of excess money in the Streetlights line item; however, all the town-owned lights were switched to LED this year, generating the substantial savings. Of the \$90,000 transferred to the *Legal-Purchase of Services*, \$60,000 involved the defense of the suit brought by the former Fire Chief and other Fire Department matters; \$12,000 was for additional bills from the town attorney and \$18,000 went to a law firm in regards to two (2) pending investigations costs. Motion to approve the transfers by Janice, seconded by Devin passed on a 4-0 vote.

Fiscal Year 2021: The new fiscal year is likely to require significant cuts due to the severe economic downturn due to the worldwide Corona virus pandemic. The TM has already identified \$300,000 in potential cuts and anticipates significantly more may be required.

Old Business:

3rd Qtr. Revenue/Expense Report: reviewed with no questions.

73 W. Main Street: Project was re-bid and offers came back roughly the same. The low bid was \$47,450. Ware received the \$25,000 grant from the State AG's Office and will use the Community Development Authority funds for the remainder; the \$33,000+ remainder in the FinComm Reserve Fund will stay put until the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 2020, if needed, then revert to Free Cash if not.

Retirement: Denis received confirmation from the BOS that they have received and accepted his notice that he will not be seeking a sixth consecutive appointment to FinComm after 15 years. Perhaps he will return in the future.

March 31, 2020, minutes: motion to approve by Devin, seconded by Janice passed by a 4-0 vote.

Next Meeting: TBD **Annual Town Meeting: June 22, 2020**

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 pm by motion of Denis, seconded by Devin and passed by a 4-0 vote.

May 11, 2020, minutes reviewed and approved:

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