



Ware

MASSACHUSETTS

Finance Committee
126 Main Street
Ware, MA 01082

Finance Committee Meeting

Meeting Location: Small Conference Room
Ware Town Hall – 126 Main Street

Meeting Date: Tuesday, October 25, 2022

Meeting Time: 5:00 pm

Members Present: Ken Willette, Terry Smith, Kelsey Sidur, S.K. Robinson
Additional Attendees: Stuart Beckley, John Morin, Tracy Meehan

Meeting Agenda items to be discussed:

1. Welcome newest member, Kelsey Sidur
2. Discussion on Under Ride Ballot Question: Discussion took place in Article 1 under #3.
3. Recommendations on fall Special Town Meeting Warrant:
 - Article 1: Total unpaid bills \$21,623.53 as of current, may increase prior to STM. Able to use Water Enterprise Fund for water bills, but unable to use Sewer Enterprise Fund for sewer bills. Tracy Meehan recommends that there is room within the Tax Levy that has not been set yet, this funding source is a possibility. Terry Smith makes motion to move to STM, Kelsey Sidur seconds. Passed unanimously.
 - Article 2: Terry Smith motions to recommend transfers/increases requested, Kelsey Sidur seconds motion. Passed unanimously.
 - Article 4: Fin Com recommends, and Terry Smith makes motion to move to STM. Kelsey Sidur seconds. Passed unanimously.
 - Article 5: Parcel would be re-zoned to allow Tractor Supply Store (\$6M), adding approximately \$115k-\$120k in taxes to the town. Terry Smith makes motion to recommend to STM, Kelsey Sidur seconds. Passes unanimously.
 - Article 9: Memorial Field Project, \$86k Grant Funding available to offset total of \$120k, net impact of \$34k to the town. Stuart recommends utilizing Free Cash. Terry Smith makes motion to move to STM, Kelsey Sidur seconds recommendation. Passed unanimously.
 - Article 10: Lead testing will be required by 2024, this would allow us to begin prior to requirement. Stuart Beckley suggests that the funds will come out of Water Retained Earnings. Terry Smith makes motion to recommend, Kelsey Sidur seconds motion. Passed unanimously.
 - Article 11: Terry Smith makes motion to recommend Article to STM, Kelsey Sidur seconds. Passed unanimously.

- Article 12: Will have rough cost estimate by next week, and more accurate cost by Annual Town Meeting in May, funding will likely be borrowed over the next ___ years. Once cost is fully known, can better determine 5-10 year impact. Acquiring building for \$1, legal work to be completed but unsure of timeline on when transaction will take place. Stuart Beckley mentions it is not currently on the Capital Plan. Ken Willette expresses concern about future impacts on taxes, municipalities, and if this will draw fundings away from other important town needs (i.e., school needs, water distribution system, wastewater treatment etc.), also the impact on the Under Ride. Community Partner has good intent, but right now there is not a fully vetted plan as to what the total impact and downstream effects will be. John Morrin expressed that we are not inclined to accept transaction until we are ready. Ken Willette makes motion not to recommend Article 12 based on lack of information at this time, impact on Under Ride, and future financial implications, Terry Smith seconds. Finance Committee unanimously agrees.
 - Article 13: Redirecting money that would otherwise go to the General Fund, received \$30k so far in FY23 per Tracy Meehan. Terry Smith motions to recommend, Kelsey Sidur seconds. Passed unanimously.
 - Article 14: Purchase of dump truck was on the Capital plan for next Spring, so this would be early. Total cost of \$370k over a 15-year time, either done via borrowing or using free cash. Terry Smith questions whether we have additional quotes and if more research will be conducted. Stuart Beckley will motion to fund 10-wheel dump truck with Free Cash at STM. Terry Smith motioned to move Article to STM. Kelsey Sidur seconds. Passed unanimously.
4. Discussion on joint BOS/School/Fin Com Meeting: Table topic until next meeting.
 5. Approval of prior meeting's minutes: Terry Smith motions to accept October 4th, 2022, minutes as presented. Kelsey Sidur seconds motion and vote passed unanimously.
 6. Review of any emails or correspondence since last meeting: Ken Willette shared emails regarding updates and upcoming events with Fin Com members.
 7. Tracy Smith moved to adjourn at 6:16 pm, Ken Willette seconds motion, passed unanimously.

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.

(WWW.TOWNOFWARE.COM) OR WITH TOWN MANAGER.

Submitted by

Ken Willette
Chairman Finance Committee