



# Ware

MASSACHUSETTS

Finance Committee  
126 Main Street  
Ware, MA 01082

Meeting Date: May 28, 2020 Fiscal Year 2020  
Meeting Location: Selectmen's Conference Room

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

Absent: none

Guest(s): Stuart Beckley (TM); Tom Barnes

Quorum met; meeting opened at 5:20 p.m.

Reserve Fund: \$26,865.89

**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:**

**Reserve Fund transfer request** in the amount of **\$6,909.24** was made by the TM for the purchase and installation of plexiglass panels in each of the Town Hall offices that are accessed by the public. It was determined that the request met all four of the criteria (*Health, Safety, Emergency, Unplanned Event*) under M.G.L. Ch. 40, s. 6 to qualify for funding; only one criterium must be met for qualification. The panels are being installed due to the pandemic corona virus (Covid-19). The funds to be transferred by the TA from *Finance Committee Reserve Fund #131-5701 to Town Hall #192-5200*. Motion to approve by Janice, seconded by Devin, passed on a 4-0 vote.

**FY'21 Budget Reductions:** **\$200,000** in budget cuts were proposed by the TM and reviewed; the largest amounts were taken by the DPW, Police and Fire Departments. A vacant position at Police & Fire will not be filled and various planned capital projects will not be done. At the DPW, **\$40,000** in extra road work will not happen. An additional **\$100,000** cut will have to be absorbed by the School Department. Another possible round of **\$250,000** in cuts may be forthcoming; if this occurs, either a large reduction in hours and/or personnel will be necessary. A huge unknown is the amount of foreseen reduction in State Aid due to the corona virus pandemic which has greatly reduced state income due to the mandatory business closures while fighting the disease these last two months.

**Pathfinder Assessment:** A bit of good news: Pathfinder School has re-assessed each town's portion of their regional budget due to closure, etc. due to the corona virus. As such, the new assessment to Ware is **\$1,296,813**; this is lower than the original assessment for fiscal year 2021 by **\$14,252**.

**Truck repairs:** The Fire Chief had let Denis know that he will be contacting FinComm in the near future for money to repair two vehicles: Ambulance 2 due to an HVAC failure (currently at the dealership) and engine repairs to one of the command cars which had to be towed from the Mass Pike after the motor died. Chris will contact Denis once he has cost estimates.

#### **Old Business:**

**73 W. Main Street:** Project to hopefully be started and completed next week.

Next Meeting: TBD **Annual Town Meeting: June 22, 2020** **Town Elections on June 29, 2020**

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

May 28, 2020, minutes reviewed and approved:

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