



# Ware

MASSACHUSETTS

Finance Committee  
126 Main Street  
Ware, MA 01082

Meeting Date: March 5, 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)

Quorum met; meeting opened at 5:10 p.m.

Reserve Fund: \$45,802.00

## New Business:

**Fiscal Year 2021 Budget:** We received the first draft of the town budget from the TM tonight; we will review it individually over the next week and prepare questions for Denis to forward to Stuart. A request was made that we look for ways to cut an additional \$100,000 from the operations side of the municipal budget in order to reduce reliance on *Free Cash* to balance the budget. Ideally, *Free Cash* should never be used to fund operations, but rather for Capital items and one-time expenditures only. Over the years, the TM has done yeoman's work to accomplish this.

**73 West Main Street:** Discussion centered on the status of the burned out building; the Town has applied for a \$25,000 grant from the Attorney General's Office which would be matched with \$25,000 from our Community Development Authority, which has been accumulating excess funds over the years specifically for a project such as this one. To this would be a request from FinComm's *Reserve Fund* for the balance or most of it depending on final estimates. The building is suspected as having asbestos due to its age and therefore the entire structure will be treated as hazardous waste, dramatically driving up the cost of demolition; hence, the years-long delay in its removal. While we have \$45,000 available, there are still four (4) months left to the fiscal year, so the entire amount may not be available.

## Old Business:

**2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr. Revenue/Expense Report:** Reviewed and discussed; two items stood out: *Other Department Revenue* with a 420.2% increase over the budgeted amount and *Misc. Non-Recurring* which was not budgeted for. The first item of *Other Departmental Revenue* was budgeted for \$15,200 for the year and is already at \$63,874.05; this is due to switching over to LED streetlights thanks to a Green Community grant that resulted in a rebate from National Grid in electricity savings of \$46,962! The second line item, *Other Departmental Revenue*, was a settlement of a lawsuit by Tri-County Recycling which has settled the suit by paying Ware \$38,754.57. Thank you to the Town Accountant for the figures and background information.

**January 23, 2020, minutes** were motioned for approval by Janice, seconded by Devin and approved by a 4-0 vote.

**Beacon:** Latest issue offered.

Next Meeting: March 19, 2020

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:12 pm by motion of Denis, seconded by Devin and passed by a 4-0 vote.

March 5, 2020, minutes reviewed and approved:

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