



Ware

MASSACHUSETTS

Finance Committee
126 Main Street
Ware, MA 01082

Finance Committee Meeting

Meeting Location: Selectmen's Conference Room
Ware Town Hall – 126 Main Street

Meeting Date: Friday, February 26, 2021

Meeting Time: 2:30 pm

Due to the outbreak of corona (Covid-19) virus, the Governor has announced an emergency order temporarily lifting the requirement of the Open Meeting Law mandating public access to the physical location of the meeting, provided there is a means of remote access.

The instructions to join the meeting virtually or by phone (via Zoom) are:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85967890776?pwd=TTlybXh4UlhQazlKTU1Sd0VTRXhaQT09>

By Phone: +1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 859 6789 0776

Passcode: 714261

Meeting Agenda items to be discussed:

1. Discussion of Water Treatment Plant Project
2. Update on demolition of 114 Main Street
3. Approval of meeting minutes
4. Review of e-mails or correspondence
5. Expenditure authorization for snow and ice removal

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.

Submitted by

Lynn Nenni
Finance Committee Chair

February 26, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Finance Committee Members Present: Lynn Nenni, Janice Hills, Devin Peterson, Ken Willette

Guests: Stuart Beckley, Town Manager; Terry Smith prospective member

The meeting was called to order at 2:40 pm on February 26, 2021

The Committee welcomed guest Terry Smith and looked forward to his appointment to the committee at the March 2, 2021 Select Board Meeting.

1) Discussion of Water Treatment Project:

The committee had several questions concerning the Water Rate Study and Quabbin Feasibility Study prepared by Tighe and Bond, which were addressed by the Town Manager. It was noted that Tighe and Bond did not recommend the Town pursue utilizing the Quabbin Reservoir as a water source due to the lengthy approval process, the uncertainty of approval and high cost to connect.

The committee also discussed the rate structure scenarios outlined in the Water Rate Study, noting that with no general fund contribution to the Water Fund for the additional annual debt payments of approximately \$500,000 that will be required, the rates will double for most users in the next seven to eight years. There was also concern that the proposed rates may need to be adjusted to reflect the departure of Mary Lane Hospital, who is a heavy user of the water system, and for accounts that are delinquent.

The committee expects to continue to discuss the project after the March 2 public hearing and as part of the 2022 budget.

2) Update on Demolition of 114 Main Street

The Town Manager provided an update on the demolition of 114 Main Street and stated that talks are ongoing with the property owner concerning the demolition. He also stated that although the State has approved an appropriation of approximately \$300,000 he was uncertain of the timing. Currently the demolition is still on the warrant for the Special Town Meeting, which is tentatively scheduled to be held on March 27. The Finance Committee has not yet voted on the article, but plans to when further information is available.

3) Approval of Minutes of February 26, 2021 Meeting:

Ken Willette made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2021 meeting.

Second: Janice Hills

Unanimously Approved

4) Review of e-mails or correspondence

Nothing was received.

5) *Snow and Ice Expenditures Authorizations*

The Town Manager presented a request to authorize the expenditure of funds in excess of the approved budget for salaries and supplies in the snow and ice removal budget. Although there is currently a balance in both accounts funds may run out in the event of another snow storm. If additional funds are used, the Town Manager will cover the shortage with transfers at the next Town Meeting.

Ken Willette made a motion to approve the Snow and Ice Expenditure Authorization

Second: Devin Peterson

Unanimously Approved

Ken Willette made a motion to adjourn at 4:10.

Second Janice Hills

Unanimously Approved.



TOWN OF WARE

Department of Public Works
4½ Church Street
Ware, Massachusetts 01082

Tel. 413-967-9620 Fax 413-967-9622
Email: gsorel@townofware.com

February 24, 2021

Stuart Beckley, TOWN MANAGER
126 Main Street
Ware, MA 01082

Dear Stuart:

Massachusetts General Laws (MGL), Chapter 44, Section 31D, allows communities to expend funds in excess of available appropriation for snow and ice removal.

The law requires the Town Manager and the Finance Committee to approve expenditures in excess of the appropriation. For Fiscal Year 2021, the Town appropriated \$140,000.00 for *Supplies* and \$60,000.00 for *Salaries* under the snow removal category.

I recommend you approve the expenditure of funds in excess of the appropriation for snow and ice removal pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 31D, as we will most likely exceed the amount for salaries and supplies before winter is over.

As of the week ending February 27, 2021 (Warrant 21-36) the balances in the Snow and Ice Removal line items are as follows:

LINE ITEM #	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
423-5100	Salaries	\$ 6,112.37
423-5400	Supplies	\$ 45,251.05
TOTAL		\$ 51,363.42

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to call the undersigned.

Yours truly,

Gilbert St. George-Sorel, SUPERINTENDENT

GSS/gss

cc: KG

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