



# Ware

MASSACHUSETTS

Finance Committee  
126 Main Street  
Ware, MA 01082

## Finance Committee Meeting

Meeting Location: Ware Town Hall  
126 Main Street, Ware, MA

Meeting Date: Wednesday, October 4, 2023

Meeting Time: 5:00 PM

Attendees: Ken Willette (via Zoom), Kelsey Sidur (via Zoom), Terry Smith, Mitch Kupperman, SK Robinson, Stuart Beckley (Town Manager), Paula Ouimette (Turley Publications)

Meeting Agenda items to be discussed:

1. Approval of prior minutes
  - Mitch Kupperman Motions to approve, Kelsey Sidur seconds. 4 votes in favor, 1 abstain, motion passes.
2. Town Managers Update
  - STM scheduled November 27<sup>th</sup>
  - Memorandum from DPW
  - Two projects ongoing, even if Aquarion gets voted in at the STM, the projects will continue as they were accounted for in the projects and would not require any additional revenue from the town.
  - The Operations Manual that is being updated will follow whoever manages the system.
3. FY 23 Budget Close Out
  - FY23 Expenditures favorable by approximately \$1.5M.
  - Stuart going to discuss Enterprise funds with Tracy (page 7 & 8) to confirm that the results were a surplus and not a deficit as shown in the report.
  - Did not collect the Cannabis Impact Fees this year and did not spend any.
4. Discuss Aquarion RFP
  - Enterprise receipts have been used to offset the cost of the Director (Split between Water, Sewer, and Highway) and other townspeople, Stuart to follow-up on the total indirect cost.
  - Any funds remaining in reserves will remain with the town if the sale goes through.
  - Aquarion Rates stop at FY30 versus Tighe & Bonds rates plateauing by that point by some Capital Projects. Can Aquarion further project out rates past FY30?
  - The past 2 Fiscal Years have only had a couple of hydrants replaced, while we've appropriated \$100k each year to replace these which would no longer be needed.

- Need to provide guidance to the town on how much longer we can go without acting on some of the Capital Projects to upgrade the system.
  - Future discussion - how does the Fin Com recommend the \$9M receipts from the sale be utilized if the sale is voted to go through?
5. Follow up on Cleargov capital planning and budget development software.
- 4 Options/Quotes provided by ClearGov
  - SK Robinson makes a motion to recommend Option #3, Mitch Kupperman seconds. Ken Willette amends the motion that the Fin Com recommends ClearGov Option 3 pending approval of the Town Accountant. SK Robinson seconds the motion. All in favor, passes unanimously.
  - Add the recommendation of ClearGov as a warrant Article to have a placeholder, and then once we have Tracy's review, add the appropriate dollar amount to the Article before it goes to the Selectboard.
6. Review of any emails or correspondence since last meeting
- Motion to adjourn at 6:28pm, Ken seconds. Passes 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.

Submitted by

Ken Willette  
Chairman Finance Committee

