



Ware

MASSACHUSETTS

Finance Committee
126 Main Street
Ware, MA 01082

Meeting Date: June 11, 2020 *Fiscal Year 2020*
Meeting Location: Selectmen's Meeting Room (*Moved from the Conference Room because of phone communication issue.)

Present: Denis R. Ouimette, Janice E. Hills and Lynn Nenni
Absent: Devin M. Peterson
Guest(s): Chris Gagnon (Fire Chief); Tom Barnes
Quorum met; meeting opened at 5:20 p.m.

Reserve Fund: **\$25,259.69**

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 **\$2,891.74** was made by the Fire Chief. This amount represented \$1,606.20 in vehicle repairs and \$1,285.54 to cover the negative balance in his *Purchase of Services* account. Only the vehicle repairs (**\$1,606.20**) were authorized as the fiscal year ends in three weeks and there's enough money in his *Supply* account to balance the department books by the TA at the end of the fiscal year. It was determined that the request met two (*Unplanned Event, Safety*) of the four 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 funds to be transferred by the TA from *Finance Committee Reserve Fund #131-5701* to *Fire Purchase of Services #220-5200*. Motion to approve by Janice, seconded by Lynn, passed on a 3-0 vote.

FY'21 Budget Reductions: **\$200,000** in additional budget cuts were proposed by the TM and reviewed; budget cuts since March are **\$500,000**. Any further cuts will lose personnel and/or reduce services across the board. Awaits final State figures due most likely in August.

Pathfinder Assessment: Another bit of good news: Pathfinder School has re-assessed each town's portion of their regional budget due to closure, etc. again due to the corona virus. As such, the new assessment to Ware is **\$1,261,669**; this is lower than the original assessment for fiscal year 2021 by **\$62,359**. Thank you to the regional school for level funding this year!

Warrant Articles: Yes: #1-4, 12-18, 23, and 28-34; Non-recommendations (Not directly finance related): #5-11, 19, 22 24-26. OK to dismiss: #20, 21 and 27. Motion to same by Denis, seconded by Janice, passed on a 3-0 vote.

Expiring term: Devin's term expires on June 30, 2020, but he was absent at tonight's meeting and couldn't answer if he will ask to be re-appointed.

Old Business:

May 28, 2020, minutes were motioned for approval by Lynn, seconded by Janice and approved by a 3-0 vote.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:08 pm by motion of Denis, seconded by Janice and passed by a 3-0 vote.

June 11, 2020, minutes reviewed and approved:

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