

Town of Hubbardston

Finance Committee – Minutes

September 19, 2022

6:30 pm

SLADE BUILDING

Meeting opened: 6:33 pm
Meeting called to order: 7:26 PM
Members present: Joshua Lerner, Susan Rayne, Charles Reed, Peter Russell, Peter Walker
Other attendees: Sandy Nason, Interim Town Administrator; Travis Brown, DPW Director
Selectboard members: Jeff Williams — Chair, Katie Young — Vice Chair, Heather Munroe - Clerk, Kris Pareago - Member, Peter Walker —Member
School Committee members: Mark Wiggler, Deb Chamberlain
Others: Michael Stoll, Joanne Cormier, Boey Bertold, Russell Bertold, Jocelyn Deneen

1) *Election of Officers.*

On motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

VOTED: To elect the following persons to serve in the following offices until their successors are duly elected and qualified:

Susan Rayne	Chair (motion by Mr. Lerner, seconded by Mr. Russell)
Joshua Lerner	Vice Chair (motion by Ms. Rayne, seconded by Mr. Reed)
Charles Reed	Clerk (motion by Mr. Russell, seconded by Mr. Lerner)

2) *Review of Interim Town Administrator's Budget and Review of draft Warrant for FY2023 Special Town Meeting, October 26, 2022.*

Vice Chair Lerner began discussion, noting that he had been emailing former Town Administrator Ryan McLane and that a deficit of approximately \$140,000 was projected. Vice Chair Lerner suggested three methods to balance the budget without using free cash: (1) operating budget cuts alone, (2) a Proposition 2½ override, and (3) a combination of both. However, since the timing for an override ask had passed, he suggested using a combination of free cash and operating budget cost-cuttings.

The Finance Committee and Selectboard noted the following:

- Using free cash to balance the operating budget is the non-recommended use of a one-time resource for recurring cost. Additionally, this use of free cash means that the Town will have that much less free cash the following year, which may necessitate an override ask for that year's budget.
- As for overrides, the group discussed again urging QRSD to engage in a five-year operating budget forecasting exercise to avoid our need for multiple sequential overrides.

Interim Town Administrator Nason stated that QRSD collective bargaining agreements will be renewing at the end of FY2023 which means that QRSD may be looking for more money for FY2024.

Vice Chair Lerner looked at the proposed operating budget for the Town and found about \$80,000 which could be cut without cutting services and level fund line items rather than increasing or decreasing them. Interim Town Administrator Nason has spoken with some of the Department Heads and found some other areas of the budget that can be cut to use for the discrepancy. Discussion continued trying to find the best way to balance the budget and where to make the cuts but not affect essential services for the Town.

Vice Chair Young stated she would like to see the department heads here so that the Finance Committee and the Select Board can meet with them to see where the cuts can be made and how it affects each of their departments.

Chair Rayne asked if the Boards might continue to look at cuts and reconvene at the October 3, 2022 Select Board meeting.

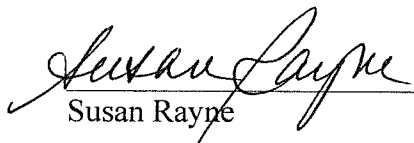
- 3) *Other/new business and matters not anticipated by the Chair.* None.
- 4) *Adjournment.* On motion duly made by Mr. Reed and seconded by Mr. Russell it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn.

ADJOURNED at 8:33 PM.

Minutes submitted by:
Minutes approved by:

Susan Rayne, Clerk *Pro Tem*
Susan Rayne, Chair


Susan Rayne

5.17.23
Date