

JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE AND SELECTBOARD
MEETING MINUTES
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 2021

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Meeting was opened at 6:01 PM by remote participation via Zoom

- **Finance Committee members:** Jen Audley, Greg Garrison, Fred Bowman, Chris Menegoni, Francia Wisnewski, and John Hanold.
- **Absent:** Jennifer Waryas
- **Montague Selectboard members:** Rich Kuklewicz, Michael Nelson (6:15) and Chris Boutwell
- **Others:** Town Administrator Steve Ellis and Town Accountant Carolyn Olsen

The Chair announced that the meeting is being streamed and recorded by the MCTV and asked if anyone else was recording the meeting. Ms. Olsen is also recording the meeting. Remote participation for both members and the public was provided by Zoom. The link to the recording is <https://vimeo.com/531638365>.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for meetings of March 10, 17 (Finance Committee only), and 24, 2021 were reviewed and approved.

Finance Committee Moved: To approve the minutes of March 10, 2021.

Vote: Audley-Aye, Garrison-Aye, Bowman-Aye, Chris Menegoni, Francia Wisnewski, and Hanold-Aye

Finance Committee Moved: To approve the minutes of March 17, 2021.

Vote: Audley-Aye, Garrison-Aye, Bowman-Aye, Chris Menegoni, Francia Wisnewski, and Hanold-Aye

Selectboard Moved: To approve the minutes of March 17, 2021.

Vote: Kuklewicz-Aye and Boutwell-Aye

Finance Committee Moved: To approve the minutes of March 24, 2021.

Vote: Audley-Aye, Garrison-Aye, Bowman-Aye, Chris Menegoni, Francia Wisnewski, and Hanold-Aye

Selectboard Moved: To approve the minutes of March 24, 2021.

Vote: Kuklewicz-Aye and Boutwell-Aye

Updates from Town Administrator and Accountant

Mr. Ellis expects a second round of federal pandemic funding as part of the American Rescue Plan Act, but the final amount is not established. Ms. Olsen had no updates to report.

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Finalization of FY 2022 Budget

Ms. Audley laid out three objectives for this meeting:

- To balance the venue and Expense amounts in the FY2022 budget
- To allocate the expenditures among the funding sources
- To vote our support for the articles expected on the Warrant for Annual Town Meeting

Public Bldg. Utilities (Department 190)

Mr. Bergeron's budget was presented, reflecting revised methodology.

Finance Committee Moved: To approve the Public Building Utilities FY22 budget of \$109,846.

Vote: Audley-Aye, Garrison-Aye, Bowman-Aye, Chris Menegoni, Francia Wisnewski, and Hanold-Aye

Selectboard Moved: To approve the Public Building Utilities FY22 budget of \$109,846.

Vote: Kuklewicz-Aye, Boutwell-Aye, and Nelson-Aye

Solid Waste (department 433)

Mr. Bergeron's budget was presented, reflecting revised methodology.

Finance Committee Moved: To approve the Solid Waste FY22 budget of \$624,796.

Vote: Audley-Aye, Garrison-Aye, Bowman-Aye, Chris Menegoni, Francia Wisnewski, and Hanold-Aye

Selectboard Moved: To approve the Solid Waste FY22 budget of \$624,796.

Vote: Kuklewicz-Aye, Boutwell-Aye, and Nelson-Aye

Board Of Health (Department 511)

Mr. Wasiuk has reviewed the basis of estimate for the public health nurse, including post-COVID needs, and has amended his request to 10 hours per week. The Board of Health concurred at their last meeting.

Finance Committee Moved: To approve the Board of Health's FY22 budget of \$160,507.

Vote: Audley-Aye, Garrison-Aye, Bowman-Aye, Chris Menegoni, Francia Wisnewski, and Hanold-Aye

Selectboard Moved: To approve the Board of Health's FY22 budget of \$160,507.

Vote: Kuklewicz-Aye, Boutwell-Aye, and Nelson-Aye

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Total General Fund for FY2022 (Schedule 3)

Finance Committee Moved: To approve the General Fund total FY22 budget of \$10,775,731 funded by \$59.80 from Transportation Infrastructure Receipts Reserved for Appropriation and \$10,775,671.20 (Taxation).

Vote: Audley-Aye, Garrison-Aye, Bowman-Aye, Chris Menegoni, Francia Wisnewski, and Hanold-Aye

Selectboard Moved: To approve the General Fund budget at \$10,775,731 funded from the same sources.

Vote: Kuklewicz-Aye, Boutwell-Aye, and Nelson-Aye

Franklin County Technical School Assessment

Finance Committee Moved: To support this article in the amount of \$1,221,005, funded by \$1,193,743 (Taxation) and \$27,672 (FCTS Stabilization)

Vote: Audley-Aye, Garrison-Aye, Bowman-Aye, Chris Menegoni, Francia Wisnewski, and Hanold-Aye

Selectboard Moved: To support this article in the amount of \$1,221,005 funded from the same sources.

Vote: Kuklewicz-Aye, Boutwell-Aye, and Nelson-Aye

Gill-Montague Regional School Assessment

Finance Committee Moved: To support this article in the amount of \$10,950,854, funded from Taxation.

Vote: Audley-Aye, Garrison-Aye, Bowman-Aye, Chris Menegoni, Francia Wisnewski, and Hanold-Aye

Selectboard Moved: To support this article in the amount of \$10,950,854 funded from Taxation.

Vote: Kuklewicz-Aye, Boutwell-Aye, and Nelson-Aye

Special Articles

Utility Valuation (Assessors)

Finance Committee Moved: To support this article in the amount of \$13,130 funded from Taxation.

Vote: Audley-Aye, Garrison-Aye, Bowman-Aye, Chris Menegoni, Francia Wisnewski, and Hanold-Aye

Selectboard Moved: To support this article in the amount of \$13,130 funded from Taxation.

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Vote: Kuklewicz-Aye, Boutwell-Aye, and Nelson-Aye

Town Administrator Requests

Unsafe/Unhealthy Buildings Fund	\$25,000
Unexpected Engineering & Survey Fund	\$25,000
Unexpected Project Shortfalls Fund	\$25,000

Finance Committee Moved: To support the Unsafe/Unhealthy Buildings Fund for \$25,000 funded from Taxation.

Vote: Audley-Aye, Garrison-Aye, Bowman-Aye, Chris Menegoni, Francia Wisnewski, and Hanold-Aye

Selectboard Moved: To support the Unsafe/Unhealthy Buildings Fund for \$25,000 funded from Taxation.

Vote: Kuklewicz-Aye, Boutwell-Aye, and Nelson-Aye

Finance Committee Moved: To support the Unexpected Engineering & Survey Fund for \$25,000 funded from Taxation.

Vote: Audley-Aye, Garrison-Aye, Bowman-Aye, Chris Menegoni, Francia Wisnewski, and Hanold-Aye

Selectboard Moved: To support the Unexpected Engineering & Survey Fund for \$25,000 funded from Taxation.

Vote: Kuklewicz-Aye, Boutwell-Aye, and Nelson-Aye

Finance Committee Moved: To support the Unexpected Project Shortfalls Fund for \$25,000 funded from Taxation.

Vote: Audley-Aye, Garrison-Aye, Bowman-Aye, Chris Menegoni, Francia Wisnewski, and Hanold-Aye

Selectboard Moved: To support the Unexpected Project Shortfalls Fund for \$25,000 funded from Taxation.

Vote: Kuklewicz-Aye, Boutwell-Aye, and Nelson-Aye

DPW Discretionary Fund

Finance Committee Moved: To support this article in the amount of \$100,000 funded from Taxation.

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Vote: Audley-Aye, Garrison-Aye, Bowman-Aye, Chris Menegoni, Francia Wisnewski, and Hanold-Aye

Selectboard Moved: To support this article in the total amount of \$100,000 funded from the same source.

Vote: Kuklewicz-Aye, Boutwell-Aye, and Nelson-Aye

Finance Committee Requests

Transfer to GMRSD Stabilization	\$ 39,890
Transfer to Town Capital Stabilization	\$127,690
Transfer to OPEB Trust Fund	\$ 50,000

Mr. Ellis commented that progress toward full-funding of the OPEB Fund is proceeding slowly; it is only about 5% funded, Ms. Wisnewski moved to increase that appropriation to \$100,000 but received no second.

Finance Committee Moved: To support a transfer to the GMRSD Stabilization of \$39,800, funded from Taxation.

Vote: Audley-Aye, Garrison-Aye, Bowman-Aye, Chris Menegoni, Francia Wisnewski, and Hanold-Aye

Selectboard Moved: To support a transfer to the GMRSD Stabilization of \$39,800, funded from Taxation.

Vote: Kuklewicz-Aye, Boutwell-Aye, and Nelson-Aye

Finance Committee Moved: To support a transfer to the Town Capital Stabilization of \$127,690, funded from Taxation.

Vote: Audley-Aye, Garrison-Aye, Bowman-Aye, Chris Menegoni, Francia Wisnewski, and Hanold-Aye

Selectboard Moved: To support a transfer to the Town Capital Stabilization of \$127,690, funded from Taxation.

Vote: Kuklewicz-Aye, Boutwell-Aye, and Nelson-Aye

Finance Committee Moved: To support a transfer to the OPEB Trust Fund of \$50,000, funded from Taxation.

Vote: Audley-Aye, Garrison-Aye, Bowman-Aye, Chris Menegoni, Francia Wisnewski, and Hanold-Aye

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Selectboard Moved: To support a transfer to the OPEB Trust Fund of \$50,000, funded from Taxation.

Vote: Kuklewicz-Aye, Boutwell-Aye, and Nelson-Aye

Building Assessment and Capital Plan	\$50,000
Phase II Environmental Assessment (500 Ave A)	\$32,500

Finance Committee Moved: To support the Building Assessment and Capital Plan article in the amount of \$50,000, funded from Free Cash.

Vote: Audley-Aye, Garrison-Aye, Bowman-Aye, Chris Menegoni, Francia Wisnewski, and Hanold-Aye

Selectboard Moved: To support the Building Assessment and Capital Plan article in the amount of \$50,000, funded from Free Cash.

Vote: Kuklewicz-Aye, Boutwell-Aye, and Nelson-Aye

Finance Committee Moved: To support the Phase II Environmental Assessment at 500 Avenue A in the amount of \$32,500, funded from Free Cash.

Vote: Audley-Aye, Garrison-Aye, Bowman-Aye, Chris Menegoni, Francia Wisnewski, and Hanold-Aye

Selectboard Moved: To support the Phase II Environmental Assessment at 500 Avenue A in the amount of \$32,500, funded from Free Cash.

Vote: Kuklewicz-Aye, Boutwell-Aye, and Nelson-Aye

Mechanics of Balancing the Budget

Ms. Olsen and Mr. Hanold presented their proposals for funding projects requested by the DPW and the Gill-Montague School District, and the rationale behind them. After review the Finance Committee chose the Hanold approach:

Six-Wheel Dump Truck	\$250,000 from Town Capitalization
Hillcrest Façade	\$55,000 from Free Cash
Sheffield Façade	\$45,000 from Free Cash
Sheffield Fire Alarm Upgrade	\$90,000 from Free Cash
High School/Middle School	
Tennis Courts Re-paving	\$56,511 from GMRSD Stabilization (Montague share)

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Discussion followed, concerning the definition of what should be funded from the GMRSD Stabilization fund and whether the additions are adequate to meet future demands, which Mr. Garrison estimated at several million dollars.

Six-Wheel Dump Truck

Finance Committee Moved: To support the purchase of a Six-Wheel Dump Truck for \$250,000, funded from Town Capital Stabilization.

Vote: Audley-Aye, Garrison-Aye, Bowman-Aye, Chris Menegoni, Francia Wisnewski, and Hanold-Aye

Selectboard Moved: To support the purchase of a Six-Wheel Dump Truck for \$250,000, funded from Town Capital Stabilization.

Vote: Kuklewicz-Aye, Boutwell-Aye, and Nelson-Aye

Gill-Montague School District Requests

Hillcrest Facade	\$55,000 from Free Cash
Sheffield Façade	\$45,000 from Free Cash
Sheffield Fire Alarm Upgrade	\$90,000 from Free Cash
High School/Middle School	
Tennis Courts Re-paving	\$56,511 from GMRSD Stabilization (Montague share)

Finance Committee Moved: To support the request for \$55,000 for repairs to the Hillcrest Façade, to be funded from Free Cash.

Vote: Audley-Aye, Garrison-Aye, Bowman-Aye, Chris Menegoni, Francia Wisnewski, and Hanold-Aye

Selectboard Moved: To support the request for \$55,000 for repairs to the Hillcrest Façade, to be funded from Free Cash.

Vote: Kuklewicz-Aye, Boutwell-Aye, and Nelson-Aye

Finance Committee Moved: To support the request for \$45,000 for repairs to the Sheffield Façade, to be funded from Free Cash.

Vote: Audley-Aye, Garrison-Aye, Bowman-Aye, Chris Menegoni, Francia Wisnewski, and Hanold-Aye

Selectboard Moved: To support the request for \$45,000 for repairs to the Sheffield Façade, to be funded from Free Cash.

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Vote: Kuklewicz-Aye, Boutwell-Aye, and Nelson-Aye

Finance Committee Moved: To support the request for \$90,000 for upgrades to the fire alarm system at the Sheffield School, to be funded from Free Cash.

Vote: Audley-Aye, Garrison-Aye, Bowman-Aye, Chris Menegoni, Francia Wisnewski, and Hanold-Aye

Selectboard Moved: To support the request for \$90,000 for upgrades to the fire alarm system at the Sheffield School, to be funded from Free Cash.

Vote: Kuklewicz-Aye, Boutwell-Aye, and Nelson-Aye

Finance Committee Moved: To support the request for \$56,511 for repairs to the GFMS/TFHS tennis courts, to be funded from the GMRSD Stabilization fund.

Vote: Audley-Aye, Garrison-Aye, Bowman-Aye, Chris Menegoni, Francia Wisnewski, and Hanold-Aye

Selectboard Moved: To support the request for \$56,511 for repairs to the GFMS/TFHS tennis courts, to be funded from the GMRSD Stabilization fund.

Vote: Kuklewicz-Aye, Boutwell-Aye, and Nelson-Aye

Transfer from WPCF Retained Earnings to WPCF Capital Stabilization \$180,000

Finance Committee Moved: To support the appropriation of \$180,000 to the WPCF Capital Stabilization Fund, to be funded from WPCF Retained Earnings.

Vote: Audley-Aye, Garrison-Aye, Bowman-Aye, Chris Menegoni, Francia Wisnewski, and Hanold-Aye

Selectboard Moved: To support the appropriation of \$180,000 to the WPCF Capital Stabilization Fund, to be funded from WPCF Retained Earnings.

Vote: Kuklewicz-Aye, Boutwell-Aye, and Nelson-Aye

Planning for Annual Town Meeting

Mr. Ellis described the highlights of the revised calendar circulated by Ms. Audley.

- Warrant articles will be due on April 20, the Warrant will be executed on May 3, and information packets mailed to Town Meeting members on May 5.
- The format of Town Meeting will be set later in April, depending on results from a survey of members to be sent out April 1.
- Tentative dates are May 22 if held outside and May 18 and 20 if held remotely.

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- In support of this schedule the Finance Committee will vote on remaining articles and review proposed narrative for the Report to Town Meeting on April 14. The final version will be completed on April 28.

Remaining Articles on ATM Warrant: Finance Action

Schedule 1: Salaries of Elected Officials

Schedule 2: Salaries of Appointed Officials

Schedule 4: Water Pollution Control Facility

Colle Building Budget

Airport Budget

Acquisition of Hillside Cemetery

Authorize Tree Committee Revolving Fund:

Cannabis Impact Fees

In addition to these issues it was noted that the Committee should devote time, after Annual Town Meeting, to better defining the uses and funding of the GMRSD Stabilization Fund.

Topics not anticipated in last 48 hours

No news was shared.

Agendas for Future Meetings

April 7 – No Finance Committee Meeting

April 14 – Draft of Report to Town Meeting

April 21 – No Finance Committee Meeting

April 28 – Finalize Report to Town Meeting

Adjournment

Finance Committee Moved: To adjourn at 7:37PM.

Vote: Audley-Aye, Garrison-Aye, Bowman-Aye, Chris Menegoni, Francia Wisniewski, and Hanold-Aye.

Selectboard Moved: To adjourn 7:37PM

Vote: Kuklewicz-Aye, Boutwell-Aye, and Nelson-Aye

Respectfully submitted by John Hanold

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List of Documents and Exhibits:

- FY2022 Budget requests
- ***FY22 Budget File 2021-03-29. Xlsx***
- Hanold alternative proposal to balance budget
- Schedule for Annual Town Meeting: Audley & Ellis Notes