

MONTAGUE FINANCE COMMITTEE
Final Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

This meeting was held via Zoom

The meeting recording can be found here: <https://vimeo.com/600621285>

PRESENT: Jen Audley – Chair (JA); John Hanold (JH); Gregory Garrison (GG); Frederic Bowman (FB) and Christopher Menengoni (CM) members. Steve Ellis, Town Administrator and Wendy Bogosz, Executive Assistant to the Board of Selectmen; BettyLou Mallet, Scribe.
ABSENT: Jennifer Waryas and Francia Wisnewski.

- 1. Call the meeting to order including announcing that the meeting is being recorded and guidelines for participation.**

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Jen Audley (JA) at 6:00 p.m. The announcement was made that the meeting is being held via Zoom and being recorded by Wendy Bogosz as well as MCTV is broadcasting and recording the meeting.

- 2. Meeting Minutes**
Introduce potential new approach to producing meeting minutes
Approval of August 11, 2021 meeting minutes (if available)

JA introduced to the Committee a new approach to taking the FinCom meeting minutes for the next several meetings and at that time, they can review the process and discuss. JA introduced BettyLou Mallet of Erving who has offered to be an independent contractor as the minute taker. BettyLou spoke to the Committee with a bit of background in her career as support staff for many committees in a local school district.

- 3. Updates from Town Administrator (if any)**

Steve Ellis presented a current staffing issue in the Dispatch department. Due to resignations and changes in status, we have only two regular full-time dispatchers, plus one in training, to staff a 24/7 requirement. A primary force is a pay scale that is not competitive with other towns. He stated that Montague is highly respected in its training and to avoid turnover in this position, a discussion will take place to revise the pay scale. This will be discussed at the Special Town Meeting (STM) and will have an impact on forecasting of future budget meetings.

Steve also spoke on the proposed timeline for the STM as well as the date it is traditionally held. He placed on the screen the timeline that is being proposed to Town officials. Thursday, October 14, 2021 is the proposed date. There will be 13 anticipated articles including the increase to the Dispatcher's budget on the upcoming STM warrant.

4. Planning Session for Financial Forecast and Policies Presentation

Due to the upcoming STM, the FinCom will hold off the future discussion of the presentation of their recommended financial policies and focus on the warrant items over the next few weeks. The FinCom are now looking at October 6, 2021 to present them.

At this time, they have not received any new public input. Input that has been received in the past will be incorporated into the presentation. The FinCom will now meet on September 15 and 22 to review each article on the STM warrant. Members will speak on a few of the new policies as well as explain where to find the documents. JA will prepare a draft of the presentation slides for the committee to review.

5. Topics not anticipated and agenda requests

The Committee did not have any other items to add to this meeting.

On a motion by FB and seconded by JH, the meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m. FB, aye; GG, aye; JH, aye; CM, aye; JA, aye. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

BettyLou Mallet
Scribe

Meeting materials: Potential Timeline for Fall 2021 Special Town Meeting

Approved by the Finance Committee: 09/22/2021