

## **MONTAGUE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, March 29, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.**

**This meeting was held both in person and via Zoom and recorded:**

<https://vimeo.com/813210425>

Finance Committee Chair Francia Wisnewski called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**Finance Committee members present:** Chair Francia Wisnewski, Vice Chair Gregory Garrison, Clerk Dorinda Bell-Upp and members John Hanold, Chris Menegoni, Jennifer Waryas, and Fred Bowman

**Finance Committee members absent:** none

**Others present:** Town Administrator Steven Ellis and Town Accountant Carolyn Olsen

The meeting was recorded by MCTV as well as by Carolyn Olsen.

### **Meeting minutes:**

Moved by Mr. Hanold to approve the Finance Committee minutes from March 22, 2023 as presented.

Seconded by Mr. Bowman and approved.

Bell-Up – Aye, Bowman – Aye, Garrison – Aye, Hanold – Aye, Menegoni – Aye, Waryas – Aye, and Wisnewski – Aye

### **Review Draft Finance Committee Report to Town Meeting**

- Ms. Wisnewski will send some comments to be incorporated.
- Mr. Menegoni suggested adding information comparing expected returns on OPEB appropriations with debt cost savings if the money were used instead of borrowing for capital items.

### **Preparation for Annual Town Meeting**

- Ms. Wisnewski suggested that the Selectboard have 45 minutes available before the start of town meeting for people to ask questions about the warrant. This would likely mean a slight delay in the start time. The Selectboard will make final decision on start time by April 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Since we generally assign specific committee members to speak on each financial article, or at least be ready to answer questions about the articles, members were asked if they had any specific articles they wanted to be responsible for.
  - Mr. Hanold would like to speak briefly on Schedules I and II, as well as the Town operating budget.
  - Mr. Bowman agreed to speak on school articles
  - Mr. Menegoni offered to take responsibility for OPEB funding questions
  - It was agreed that Mr. Garrison and Mr. Menegoni would share responsibility for articles recommended by the CIC
  - Remaining articles will be arbitrarily distributed, with the opportunity to decline responsibility for specific articles.

### **Updates from Town Administrator –**

- **Grant submissions** – The \$2M Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) Request for Combined Sewer Overflow Improvements and the \$2.5M USDA Grant Request have been submitted.
- **Procurement and Execution** – Procurement has begun for the CWF generator, the Colle roof project, and the vehicles approved at the March STM.
- **Planning Processes**
  - Developing the Capital Improvement Plan - shared draft with CIC today
  - Reviewing ARPA spending priorities
  - Intense focus and review on collection system needs, including relining old pipes
- **Town Meeting Warrant and Logistics**
  - Logistics – just received word that representative town meetings can now be hybrid. The Moderator is open to this possibility, and the Selectboard staff are surveying Town Meeting Members and speaking with GMRSD Information Technology staff to see if a hybrid meeting is feasible .
  - To accommodate the suggestion of a pre-town meeting, we will be offering cider and donuts from 8:00-8:45 AM, with a 15 minute break before starting Town Meeting at 9:00 AM, pending final approval by Selectboard.
  - We may need to make adjustments to Schedules I and II to recognize the Town Clerk's retirement, and we are currently discussing the recommended approach with counsel. It is complicated by both the transition and also uncertainty about the town election outcome on the question of making the position appointed.

### **Future meetings –**

- April 5<sup>th</sup> for final work on Finance Committee Report to Town Meeting, may need to re-vote Schedules I & II. This will be a hybrid meeting.
- April 12<sup>th</sup> only if needed for new items or things not completed on the 5<sup>th</sup>.
- April 26<sup>th</sup> – tentative date for Town Meeting preparation, if needed
- Potential meeting to debrief after Town Meeting

### **Topics not anticipated within 48 hours of posting –**

#### **Finance Committee Adjournment**

Mr. Hanold makes the motion to adjourn at 7:20 PM. Seconded by Mr. Bowman and approved.

Bell-Up – Aye, Bowman – Aye, Garrison – Aye, Hanold – Aye, Menegoni – Aye, Waryas – Aye, and Wisnewski – Aye

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Olsen