

Finance Committee
Special Meeting
Tuesday, January 16, 2024
Town Hall / Zoom

Minutes

Finance Committee Members Present: Ross Lally (Chair), Robert Morra, Amanda Gordon, Rhea Klein

Finance Committee Members Absent: Ashley Phelan, Robert Munroe, Christopher Connelly

Others Present: Kristin Hecht (Superintendent of Schools), James Rupert (Town Administrator), Rodney Fournier (First Selectman), John Butrymovich (Buildings and Grounds), Sean Bailey (Highway Department)

1. Call to Order
 - a. Ross Lally Called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
2. Public Comment
 - a. James Loersch stated that the town needs a new town hall to replace the current inadequate structure on the town green. He stated that the best location would be on the site of the Notch Road Municipal Building after it has been demolished.
3. Approval of Minutes, January 18, 2023
 - a. Robert Morra MOVED to approve the minutes as written. Amanda Gordon SECONDED. By rollcall vote PASSES 1:0:3.
4. Discussion on CAPA Budget
 - a. Robert Morra noted that we did not yet have a figure for the grand list after the recent revaluation. We need this figure to determine the minimum capital investment required by the town charter.
5. Board of Education (BOE)
 - a. Kristin Hecht led the discussion with supporting details from John Butrymovich. The proposed expenditures cover maintenance and repairs of school buildings and their associated grounds, purchase of vehicles (plows, vans, utility trucks), maintenance equipment (mowers, floor scrubbers), and state-mandated HVAC 5-year assessments.
 - b. Amanda Gordon noted that the former Board of Finance had suggested spreading out expenditures over multiple years where possible to avoid larger lump-sum capital requests.
 - i. Robert Morra noted that this approach would also reduce the need for bonding which in turn would reduce interest payments to save money.
 - ii. Ross Lally asked if this would be good to do for vehicle purchase. John Butrymovich noted that the vehicles are on a cycle that replaces one per year, effectively spreading the costs over time.
 - iii. Committee agreed that funding should be set aside for the following upcoming expenses:

1. Line 1 – Center School 2029 HVAC assessment. \$8,000 in FY 2025, FY 2026, FY2027, and FY2028.
2. Line 6 – Center School Well and Freezer Generator. \$35,000 FY2026 and \$38,600 in FYI 2027.
3. Line 7 – High School 2029 HVAC assessment. \$8,000 in FY 2025, FY 2026, FY2027, and FY2028.

6. Board of Selectmen

- a. James Rupert led the discussion with supporting details from John Butrymovich and Sean Bailey. The proposed expenditures cover maintenance and repairs of town buildings, recreational facilities, and their associated Infrastructure. It also covers the purchase of vehicles (plows, vans, utility trucks), and purchase equipment (mowers, floor scrubbers).
- b. Jim Rupert made two corrections to the proposed plan to reflect their relative priority:
 - i. Move Line 11 (Herrick Park Lodge Roof Replacement) from FY2026 to FY2025.
 - ii. Move Line 21 (Library Roof) from FY2025 to FY2026
- c. Sean ??? justified the \$120,000 acquisition of a highway excavator in that rentals were costly and hard to find when needed. Additionally, the town's backhoes were inadequate for some of the larger upcoming projects in both capacity and ability to work on soft ground.
- d. James Rupert also added \$42,000 to line 32 (Modular office) to cover the maximum expected rental costs for FY2025.

7. Consider and Act on CAPA Budget

- a. Postponed until our next meeting because key participants had to leave for another meeting at 6:00 p.m.

8. Adjournment

- a. Robert Morra MOVED to adjourn. Amanda Gordon SECONDED. Meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m. By rollcall vote PASSES 4:0:0.