



TOWN OF KINGSTON

Finance Committee

26 Evergreen Street

Kingston, MA 02364

October 4, 2023

Minutes

Call to Order

At 6:00pm Carl Pike opened the Finance Committee Meeting in Room 203 at the Kingston Town House. Also present were members Michael Cowett, David Fuller, Derek Billnitzer, and Debra Moran. Elaine Fiore attended via zoom and Jason Viveiros was absent. Also present were Town Administrator Keith Hickey, Town Planner Val Massard, Highway Supt. Paul Basler, and Treasurer/Collector Ken Moalli. Finance Director Carol McCoy attended via zoom.

Comments

There is still a vacancy on the Capital Planning Committee for a volunteer to be appointed by the Finance Committee.

Minutes

To approve the 7/13/23 meeting minutes.

Motion: Michael Cowett

Second: David Fuller

Vote: 5-0-1 (Elaine abstained)

To approve the 9/20/23 meeting minutes.

Motion: Michael Cowett

Second: Debra Moran

Vote: 6-0-0

Review Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles (cont'd)

#4 to supplement FY24 Operating Budget in the amount of \$387,500.00. Elaine expressed concern with large increases to Wages and Employee Benefits. Also that this amount of money shouldn't be on a Special Town Meeting Warrant. Carl reiterated that the town needs to hold departments to their budgets. Michael asked that these amounts and all adjustments from the Special Town Meeting be noted in the FY25 budget books.

Motion: Michael Cowett

Second: David Fuller

Vote: 5-1-0 (Elaine opposed)



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#9 to establish a Tax Title Collection Revolving Fund. Discussion regarding necessity. Carl noted his opposition to revolving funds.

Motion: Michael Cowett

Second: Derek Billnitzer

Vote: 2-4-0

#10 to supplement FY24 funding for Tax Title processing in the amount of \$20,000.00. Ken stated with these funds he can acquire \$200,000-\$300,000 in revenues by 6/30/24.

Motion: Michael Cowett

Second: Debra Moran

Vote: 5-1-0 (Carl opposed)

#19 to amend Finance Committee/Budget Process By-Law. Michael expressed concern that the timeline puts pressure on the Finance Committee to meet weekly. Carl asked to receive the budget books early, the same time as the BOS receives them.

Motion: Michael Cowett

Second: David Fuller

Vote: 6-0-0

Debra had to leave early.

#22 to establish New Temporary Repairs to Private Ways By-Law. Val made an excellent presentation, however, concerns regarding if Betterments "shall" or "may" be assessed, and by whom, were raised. Carl expressed concern that the costs could financially impact the town, especially when promises to keep spending low are never kept.

Motion: Michael Cowett

Second: David Fuller

Vote: 1-4-0

#24 to accept Prudent Investor Rule.

Motion: Michael Cowett

Second: Derek Billnitzer

Vote: 5-0-0

#25 to ratify Solar Pilot Agreement.

Motion: Michael Cowett

Second: David Fuller

Vote: 5-0-0



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Adjourn

At 7:33pm a motion to adjourn was made by Michael Cowett, seconded by David Fuller, and passed unanimously.

Next Regular Meeting

It was determined that the joint meeting with the BOS for 10/10/23 is not needed. Next meeting TBD after the holidays at 6:00pm in room 203 and via zoom.