

**TOWN OF ROWLEY
FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of Meeting April 21, 2020
By Teleconference**

Finance Committee Attendance: Present were Larry White – Chairman, Sharon Emery – Vice Chair, Peter Censullo, Tom Corben and Theresa Coffey - Recording Secretary.

Absent: Dennis Roy, David Zizza

Other Attendees: Town Administrator Debbie Eagan, Town Accountant Sue Bailey, Highway Supt. Patrick Snow, Water Commissioner Bernie Cullen, Water Superintendent Bob Gray, Council on Aging Director Brienne Walsh, Coordinator of Health Services Frank Marchegiani

1. Call to Order – Chairman Larry White called the meeting of the Finance Committee to order at 1:06 pm. Attendance of Finance Committee members and other attendees was taken by roll call and is recorded above. Chairman White read the following announcement:

“Consistent with the Governor’s orders suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law and banning gatherings of more than 10 people, this meeting will be conducted by remote participation to the greatest extent possible. The public may not physically attend this meeting, but every effort will be made to allow the public to view and listen to the meeting in real time. Persons who wish to do so are invited to watch the meeting on Rowley Community Media TV / listen live on the RCM page on the Town’s website at www.townofrowley.net or join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone by using the link or dial-in provided on the agenda. In the event that live transmission proves infeasible, an audio or video recording, transcript or other comprehensive record of the meeting will be made available on the Town’s website as soon as possible.”

2. Review FY21 Budgets

- Highway Department – A correction was made to the budget worksheet expense line as requested by the Finance Committee at the April 14, 2020 meeting. There were no changes to the budget.

Corben made a motion to approve the FY21 Highway Department budget. Emery seconded the motion and it was approved by roll call vote: White – yes; Censullo – yes; Corben – yes; Emery – yes.

- Water Department – Water Board Commissioner Bernie Cullen commented on the Engineering Services line in the amount of \$25,000. This line item was discussed with

the Water Board and the decision was unanimous to leave the \$25,000 in the budget to retain outside expert services when needed.

Discussion was held on water rate reductions. Cullen explained that there is a budget surplus but the department will be fully staffed and health insurance costs need to be considered. In addition, revenue projections for FY21 are very tight. The Water Board does not feel that another rate reduction can be sustained for the next three years. White agreed that a rate reduction is not wise with many unknowns related to revenue in the next fiscal year due to the COVID-19, with residential usage likely going up and business usage going down.

Corben made a motion to accept the FY21 budget for the Water Department. Emery seconded the motion and it was approved by roll call vote of 3 in favor and 1 opposed: White – yes; Censullo – no; Corben – yes; Emery – yes.

- Board of Selectmen – *Emery made a motion to accept the FY21 Board of Selectmen. Censullo seconded the motion and it was approved by roll call vote: White – yes; Censullo – yes; Corben – yes; Emery – yes.*
- Town Accountant – *Corben made a motion to approve the FY21 Town Accountant budget. Emery seconded the motion and it was approved by roll call vote: White – yes; Censullo – yes; Corben – yes; Emery – yes.*
- Town Clerk, Registrar of Voters, Elections – *Emery made a motion to approve the FY21 Town Clerk, Registrar of Voters, and Elections budgets. Corben seconded the motion and it was approved by roll call vote: White – yes; Censullo – yes; Corben – yes; Emery – yes.*
- Constable - *Emery made a motion to approve the FY21 Constable budget. Censullo seconded the motion and it was approved by roll call vote: White – yes; Censullo – yes; Corben – yes; Emery – yes.*
- Shellfish Constable – Corrections were noted for Form 1, the wage increase was revised to read \$150 and expenses increase was revised to read \$300.

Emery made a motion to approve the FY21 Shellfish Constable budget. Corben seconded the motion and it was approved by roll call vote: White – yes; Censullo – yes; Corben – yes; Emery – yes.

- Board of Health – Coordinator of Health Services Frank Marchegiani reviewed reorganization in positions and in hours for the Health Agent and the Secretary positions. These changes were made with the assistance and approval of the Personnel Board to provide an increase in services and have a minimal impact on the budget. The expense line is level funded.

Emery made a motion to approve the FY21 Board of Health budget. Corben seconded the motion and it was approved by roll call vote: White – yes; Censullo – yes; Corben – yes; Emery – yes.

- Council on Aging – The revised Council on Aging budget was circulated to the Finance Committee but had not yet been reviewed for discussion and vote.

Emery made a motion to table the FY21 Council on Aging budget to the next meeting on April 28, 2020. Corben seconded the motion and it was approved by roll call vote: White – yes; Censullo – yes; Corben – yes; Emery – yes.

3. Discuss Triton Regional School District Budget – Following up on the vote taken at the April 14, 2020 meeting that resulted in a tie of 3 in favor and 3 opposed, White informed the Committee that he would change his vote to a “yes”. The voting for the Triton budget will be re-opened at the April 28, 2020 meeting.
4. Minutes – This item was tabled.
5. Set Meeting Dates – The next meeting will be held on April 28, 2020 at 12:30 pm.
6. Adjourn – At 2:04 pm, Emery made a motion to adjourn. Censullo seconded the motion and it was approved by roll call vote: White – yes; Censullo – yes; Corben – yes; Emery – yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Coffey
Finance Committee Secretary

Documents used at or for the meeting:

Agenda for April 21, 2020

FY21 Budgets:

Highway Department
Water Department
Board of Selectmen
Town Accountant
Town Clerk, Elections, Registrar of Voters
Constable
Shellfish Constable
Board of Health
Council on Aging