

**TOWN OF ROWLEY
FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of Meeting March 22, 2022
6:30 PM**

Finance Committee Attendance: Present were Larry White – Chairman, Sharon Emery – Vice Chair, Pamela Bowen, Peter Censullo, Dennis Roy and Chip Sheerin. Tom Corben was not present.

Other Attendees: Deborah Eagan, Town Administrator; David Petersen, Select Board / Cemetery Commission; Sue Bailey, Town Accountant; Police Chief Scott Dumas; Highway Surveyor Patrick Snow; Assessor Sean McFadden; Harbormaster Bill DiMento; Water Commissioner Bernie Cullen; and Water Superintendent Robert Gray

1. Call to Order – Chair Larry White called the meeting of the Finance Committee to order at 6:32 PM.
2. FY23 Budgets

Board of Selectmen – Emery made a motion to accept the Board of Selectmen FY23 Budget. Bowen seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Board of Assessors – Emery made a motion to accept the Board of Assessors FY23 Budget. Bowen seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Town Accountant – Town Accountant Sue Bailey explained the wage increase due to an increased workload in the department.

Roy made a motion to accept Town Accountant FY23 Budget. Bowen seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Town Hall – Roy made a motion to accept the Town Hall FY23 Budget. Emery seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Inspection Department – Emery made a motion to accept the Inspection Department FY23 budget. Bowen seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Police Department – Police Chief Scott Dumas reviewed the Police Department FY23 budget. He explained the wage increases are due to collective bargaining negotiations and step increases. The Chief's salary was increase as part of the adjusts made related to the

compensation study. Chief Dumas reviewed increases in expenses for maintenance, software for facility cameras, and costs associated with software and cloud storage for body cameras. He provided information on the value of body cameras and the need to store recordings. The landscaping at the Public Safety facility is split between the Police and Fire Departments budget.

Chief Dumas commented on the request for a motorcycle that was taken out of the budget by the Board of Selectmen. He discussed the benefits of having a motorcycle and will seek funding from other sources.

Roy commented on the organized format and presentation of the Police Department budget.

Roy made a motion to accept the Police Department FY23 Budget in the amount of \$1,822,214. Bowen seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Harbormaster – Changes needed on the budget forms related to Steps and Wages were reviewed with Harbormaster Bill DiMento.

Emery made a motion to accept the Harbormaster FY23 Budget with corrections. Roy seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Tree Warden – Bowen made a motion to accept the Tree Warden FY23 Budget. Sheerin seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Highway – Roy distributed a handout that he drafted titled “FY23 Highway Department Review and Questions” (attached to the minutes). Highway Surveyor Patrick Snow reviewed the FY23 budget as shown on the corrected forms. Snow commented on the request for engineering services. The Board of Selectmen reduced the original request of \$75,000 to \$25,000. Roy explained the scope of the engineering services for survey work, plans and other services. Snow will revise the Highway budget to reflect the engineering services reduction to \$25,000.

Sheerin made a motion to accept the Highway FY23 Budget with corrections. Bowen seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Snow and Ice - Roy made a motion to accept the Snow and Ice FY23 Budget. Sheerin seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Triton - Emery made a motion to accept the Triton FY23 Budget. Bowen seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Whittier - Roy made a motion to accept the Whittier FY23 Budget. Bowen seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Essex Tech - Emery made a motion to accept the Essex Tech FY23 Budget. Bowen seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Water Department – Water Commissioner Bernie Cullen and Water Superintendent Bob Gray reviewed the Water Department FY23 budget. Roy distributed a handout that he drafted titled “FY-23 Water Department Budget Review Questions” that included responses from Cullen (attached to the minutes).

Cullen discussed the challenge of projecting revenue. He commented on a new development, Falcon Ridge, that is expected to increase revenue in FY22. Cullen discussed the increase in fuel costs and utility expenses. He reviewed personnel issues, and the lack of qualified workers to fill senior operation positions. Junior positions are being filled and trained with the goal to move those employees up to senior positions. He explained the work that is being done on overtime. Benefits cost must be funded for full staffing levels so when employees are hired, the money is in the budget to support their benefits.

Bowen made a motion to accept the Water Department FY23 Budget. Roy seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Roy read a statement for the record regarding the Water Department Budget (attached to the minutes).

3. Minutes - No action.
4. Adjourn - At 8:15 pm, Bowen made a motion to adjourn. Emery seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in favor.

The next meeting will be held on March 29, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Coffey
Finance Committee Secretary

Documents used at or for the meeting:

Agenda for March 22, 2022

FY23 Proposed Budgets for:

- Board of Selectmen
- Board of Assessors
- Town Accountant
- Town Hall
- Inspection Department
- Police Department
- Harbormaster
- Tree Warden
- Highway

- Snow and Ice
- Triton
- Whittier
- Essex Tech
- Water Department

Handouts from Dennis Roy

- FY23 Highway Department Review and Questions
- FY23 Water Department Review and Questions
- Statement read aloud during Finance Committee Meeting