

April 17, 2024

Meeting of Finance Committee held on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, beginning at 6:05 p.m. in the Selectmen's Conference Room, Town Hall.

Members present: Tony Sanches, Aneta Lombardi, Michael Kelley, Susanne Boyea, Dolly Cincone and Matais Goncalves

Members excused: none

First Order of Business: The Pledge of Allegiance

At this time the committee discussed and voted on recommending warrants for the Special Town Meeting to be held on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024:

- Article 1 - to see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds \$2,784.61 for unpaid bills and/or overexpended accounts of previous fiscal year. Motion to recommend approval made by Ms. Cincone; seconded by Ms. Lombardi; vote: 6-0-0 in favor.
- Article 2 - to see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash a sum of money to cover the additional overtime expenses incurred by the Police Department. The final amount will be given to the committee during the next meeting. Motion to postpone the vote until the final amount is determined made by Ms. Cincone; seconded by Ms. Lombardi; vote: 6-0-0 in favor.
- Article 3 - to see if town will vote to transfer from available funds, including free cash, a sum of money for the Fiscal Year 2024 Snow & Ice deficit. The final amount will be given to the committee during the next meeting. Motion to postpone the vote until the final amount is determined made by Ms. Cincone; seconded by Ms. Lombardi; vote: 6-0-0 in favor.

The committee then discussed and voted on recommending warrants for the Annual Town Meeting to be held on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024:

- Article 1 - Town Officers Reports - to hear and act on the reports of the Town Officers. Motion to make no recommendation as there is no financial impact made by Ms. Cincone; seconded by Ms. Lombardi; vote: 5-0-1 in favor.
- Article 2 - Town Committee Reports - to hear and act on the reports of the outstanding committees appointed pursuant to prior warrants and continued at each succeeding meeting and to continue said committees further, unless discharged by vote of this body. Motion to make no recommendation as there is no financial impact made by Ms. Cincone; seconded by Mr. Kelley; vote: 5-0-1 in favor.
- Article 3 - FY25 Budget - to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or otherwise provide sums of money as may be necessary for town purposes and charges

during Fiscal Year 2025. Motion to postpone the vote until the final amount is determined made by Ms. Cincone; seconded by Ms. Lombardi; vote: 6-0-0 in favor.

- Article 4 – Revolving Funds - to see if the Town will vote to establish the annual expenditure limits for each of the following already established revolving funds as written in the article. Motion to recommend approval made by Ms. Cincone; seconded by Ms. Boyea; vote: 6-0-0 in favor.
- Article 5 – is supposed to be withdrawn; motion to postpone the vote until further clarification is available made by Ms. Cincone; seconded by Ms. Lombardi; vote: 6-0-0 in favor.
- Article 6 – Commission on Disability – to see if the Town will raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds up to \$4,900 to be expended by the Commission on Disability for training, marketing materials, supplies and other materials. Motion to recommend approval made by Ms. Cincone; seconded by Ms. Lombardi; vote: 6-0-0 in favor.
- Article 7 – Veteran’s Park Master Planning – to see if the Town will raise and appropriate, borrow, and/or transfer from available funds up to \$50,000 to hire a consultant to conduct a feasibility study and master plan for the Veteran’s Park recreational area. Motion to recommend approval made by Ms. Cincone; seconded by Mr. Kelley; vote: 6-0-0 in favor.
- Article 8 – Chapter 90 funds – to see if the Town will vote to accept and appropriate any and all State Chapter 90 Highway Aid Funds to engineering, construction, reconstruction and/or repairs to Town roads and bridges. Motion to recommend approval made by Ms. Cincone; seconded by Ms. Boyea; vote: 6-0-0 in favor.
- Article 9 – Mass DOT Contract – to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a contract with the MA Department of Transportation for the construction and maintenance of public roads for the ensuing years. Motion to recommend approval made by Ms. Cincone; seconded by Ms. Boyea; vote: 6-0-0 in favor.
- Article 10 – FY25 Capital Improvements – to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds and/or borrow by the issuance of bonds or notes for Town Capital Improvements in the amount of \$2,024,810 during the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2024. Motion to recommend approval made by Ms. Cincone; seconded by Ms. Lombardi; vote: 6-0-0 in favor.
- Article 11 – FY25 Capital Improvements - to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds and/or borrow by the issuance of bonds or notes for Westover Golf Course Capital Improvements in the amount of \$222,251 during the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2024. Motion to recommend approval made by Ms. Cincone; seconded by Ms. Lombardi; vote: 6-0-0 in favor.

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- Article 12 – Finance Committee Reserve Fund - to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds \$100,000 for the Fiscal Year 2025 Reserve Fund. Motion to recommend approval made by Ms. Cincone; seconded by Ms. Boyea; vote: 6-0-0 in favor.
- Article 13 – Building Infrastructure Fund - to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds \$100,000 to fund the Building Infrastructure Article for the purpose of assessing and addressing the repairs, maintenance and construction of municipal buildings. Motion to recommend approval made by Ms. Cincone; seconded by Mr. Kelley; vote: 6-0-0 in favor.
- Article 14 – Stabilization Fund – to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds \$300,000 for deposit into the Stabilization Fund. Motion to recommend approval made by Ms. Cincone; seconded by Ms. Boyea; vote: 6-0-0 in favor.
- Article 15 – OPEB - to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds \$200,000 for OPEB. Motion to postpone the vote until more information is available made by Ms. Cincone; seconded by Ms. Lombardi; vote: 6-0-0 in favor.
- Article 16 – 250<sup>th</sup> Semi-quincentennial committee - to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds up to \$25,000 to be expended by the 250<sup>th</sup> Semi-quincentennial committee for general expenses related to the town-wide year long celebration in 2024. Motion to recommend approval made by Ms. Cincone; seconded by Ms. Lombardi; vote: 6-0-0 in favor.
- Article 17 – Opioid Stabilization Fund – the Opioid Stabilization Fund is no longer needed due to a change in state law; all funds previously dedicated or deposited into the stabilization fund will be transferred to the special revenue fund. Motion to recommend approval made by Ms. Cincone; seconded by Ms. Boyea; vote: 6-0-0 in favor.
- Article 18 – Opioid Settlement Funds - to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds \$134,540 from Free Cash for the opioid settlement special revenue fund. Motion to recommend approval made by Ms. Cincone; seconded by Ms. Boyea; vote: 6-0-0 in favor.
- Article 19 – Public Safety HVAC Bond authorization increase – to see if the Town will appropriate \$400,000 or any other amount to pay costs of making HVAC improvements to the Public Safety Facility, in addition to the \$2.4 million previously appropriated for this project. Motion to recommend approval made by Ms. Cincone; seconded by Ms. Lombardi; vote: 6-0-0 in favor.
- Article 20 – East Street Solar Pilot – to see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate the terms of payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) agreement with the

owner of 4MW solar energy generating facility located on East St. Motion to recommend approval made by Ms. Cincone; seconded by Ms. Lombardi; vote: 6-0-0 in favor.

- Article 21 – Center Street Battery Storage Pilot - to see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate the terms of payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) agreement with the owner battery storage energy system located at 1106 Center St. Motion to recommend approval made by Ms. Cincone; seconded by Ms. Boyea; vote: 6-0-0 in favor.
- Article 22 – Radio Communications Bond Surplus Transfer – to see if the Town will vote to transfer \$468,484.87 in surplus of borrowed funds remaining from the \$4.8 million radio communications borrowing to pay costs of constructing Millside Drive or the Ludlow High School Sport Complex or the Ludlow Highschool Wall Repair or design or construction of Whitney Park or Veteran’s Park improvements. Motion to postpone the vote until more information is available made by Ms. Cincone; seconded by Mr. Kelley; vote: 6-0-0 in favor.
- Article 23 – Weights & Measures fees - to see if the Town will vote to change the schedule of weights & measures fees. Motion to postpone the vote until more information is available made by Ms. Cincone; seconded by Ms. Boyea; vote: 6-0-0 in favor.
- Article 24 – Transfer of FY24 Capital Funds for Pond Committee – to see if Town will vote to transfer \$15,000 in surplus FY24 Capital Improvements funds remaining from the \$50,000 allocation for the new town vehicle – the vehicle was purchased for \$34,998; so the surplus could be used for the Minechoag Pond study without any additional impact on the town budget. Motion to postpone the vote until more information is available made by Ms. Cincone; seconded by Ms. Boyea; vote: 6-0-0 in favor.
- Article 25 – Piney Lane Bridge Conveyances. Motion to take make no recommendation as there is no financial impact made by Ms. Cincone; seconded by Ms. Lombardi; vote: 5-0-1 in favor.
- Article 26 – Senior Citizens Property Abatement Program – to see if the Town will vote to rewrite the Senior Citizens Property Abatement Program which decreases the number of participants from 75 to 60, increases the dollar amount to \$900 and allows the division to be divided by the MA Minimum Wage. Motion to postpone the vote until more information is available made by Mr. Goncalves; seconded by Ms. Lombardi; vote: 5-0-1 in favor.
- Article 27 – posting Town Meeting Warrants. Motion to make no recommendation as there is no financial impact made by Ms. Cincone; seconded by Ms. Lombardi; vote: 5-0-1 in favor.
- Article 28 – Animal Control Bylaw Update. Motion to recommend approval made by Ms. Cincone; seconded by Ms. Boyea; vote: 6-0-0 in favor.

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- Article 29 – authorize 5 year contract for License Plate Readers. Motion to recommend approval made by Ms. Boyea; seconded by Ms. Cincone; vote: 6-0-0 in favor.
- Article 30 – District Improvement Financing Plan – to see if the Town will borrow and appropriate the sum of \$3,199,000 for the purposes of public infrastructure improvements, including roadwork, parks and recreation, and other improvements in the area of Mills Improvement District. Motion to postpone the vote until more information is available made by Ms. Cincone; seconded by Mr. Kelley; vote: 6-0-0 in favor.
- Article 31 – Zoning Bylaw Amendment – visibility at Intersections. Motion to make no recommendation as there is no financial impact made by Ms. Cincone; seconded by Ms. Lombardi; vote: 5-0-1 in favor.
- Article 32 – Zoning change – 8-10 Wedgewood Drive. Motion to make no recommendation as there is no financial impact made by Ms. Cincone; seconded by Mr. Goncalves; vote: 5-0-1 in favor.
- Article 33 - Zoning change – 191 West Street. Motion to make no recommendation as there is no financial impact made by Ms. Cincone; seconded by Mr. Goncalves; vote: 5-0-1 in favor.
- Article 34 - Zoning change – 0 West Street. Motion to make no recommendation as there is no financial impact made by Ms. Cincone; seconded by Mr. Goncalves; vote: 5-0-1 in favor.
- Article 35 – Riverside Drive. Motion to make no recommendation as there is no financial impact made by Ms. Cincone; seconded by Mr. Goncalves; vote: 5-0-1 in favor.

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Moved by Ms. Cincone, seconded by Ms. Boyea to adjourn the Finance Committee Meeting at 7:59 p.m. Vote: 6-0-0 in favor.

Michelle Lombardi  
[Signature]  
Barbara Cincone

Matthew Smeal  
[Signature]  
Suzanne M. Boyea

Ludlow Finance Committee