

May 1, 2024

Meeting of Finance Committee held on Wednesday, May 1, 2024, beginning at 6:02 p.m. in the Hearing Room, Town Hall.

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Members present: Tony Sanches, Aneta Lombardi, Michael Kelley, Susan Blaya and AD81123 Cincone

TOWN OF LUDLOW

Members excused: Matais Goncalves

Mr. Marc Strange and Chief Valades were also present.

First Order of Business: The Pledge of Allegiance

Chief Valades summarized the Police Department budget for the end of 2024, as well as provided background for Article 2 of the Special Town Meeting regarding police overtime:

- Largest accounts (over budget):
  - Police overtime for training - \$33,916.33
  - Vacation payouts - \$30,745.14 (for retirement, leave and on duty injury pay)
  - Cruiser repairs/maintenance - \$18,698.97
  - Energy supplies/gasoline - \$15,954.23
- Largest accounts (not budgeted for):
  - 1% Supervisor's retro pay - \$15,794.25
  - 3% Officer's retro pay - \$122,198.81
  - Vacations payouts - \$31,371.68
  - New cruiser upfits - \$26,989
  - HID fingerprint instrument - \$9,230.70
  - Mandatory training - \$124,699.23 (budgeted 100k)
  - Festa 2023 - \$14,274.55 (part of overtime)
  - 250<sup>th</sup> First Night - \$4,753.36
  - 250<sup>th</sup> parage/bock party - \$20,000 (estimated)
- Special Town Meeting Overtime request is \$220,000

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

- Article 2 - to see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash \$220,000 to cover the additional overtime expenses incurred by the Police Department. Motion to recommend approval made by Ms. Cincone; seconded by Ms. Lombardi; vote: 5-0-0 in favor.
- Article 3 - to see if town will vote to transfer from available funds, including free cash, \$53,000 for the Fiscal Year 2024 Snow & Ice deficit. Motion to recommend approval made by Ms. Cincone; seconded by Ms. Lombardi; vote: 5-0-0 in favor.

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

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- Article 5 – will be withdrawn.
- Article 15 – OPEB - to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from free cash \$200,000 for OPEB. Motion to recommend approval made by Ms. Cincone; seconded by Ms. Lombardi; vote: 5-0-0 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 recommend approval made by Ms. Cincone; seconded by Ms. Boyea; vote: 5-0-0 in favor.
- Article 23 – Weights & Measures fees - to see if the Town will vote to change the schedule of weights & measures fees. Motion to recommend approval made by Ms. Cincone; seconded by Ms. Lombardi; vote: 5-0-0 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 recommend approval made by Ms. Cincone; seconded by Ms. Boyea; vote: 5-0-0 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 recommend approval made by Mr. Kelley; seconded by Ms. Lombardi; vote: 5-0-0 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 recommend approval made by Ms. Cincone; seconded by Ms. Boyea; vote: 5-0-0 in favor.
- Article 3 – FY25 Budget - to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or otherwise provide \$84,151,658 as may be necessary for town purposes and charges during Fiscal Year 2025. Motion to recommend approval made by Ms. Cincone; seconded by Ms. Lombardi; vote: 5-0-0 in favor.

Moved by Ms. Cincone, seconded by Ms. Boyea to approve and sign the Finance Committee Minutes of April 10, 2024, as indicated.  
Vote: 5-0-0 in favor

Moved by Ms. Cincone, seconded by Ms. Boyea to adjourn the Finance Committee Meeting at 7:35 p.m. Vote: 5-0-0 in favor.

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*Michelle Lombardi*

*[Signature]*

*Debra Cincone*

Ludlow Finance Committee

*Susan M. Boyea*