

TOWN OF ROCKLAND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

March 29, 2023

Committee Members Present: Chairman John Pumphrey, Vice Chairman Julie Shaffer, Bill Principe, Bill Stuart, Linda Sternfelt.

Committee Members Absent: Secretary Cara O'Neill, Bob MacDonald.

Other attendees: Doug Lapp, Town Administrator, Scott Curtis, Town Accountant, Jeanne Blaney, Alyson Le Phipps, Steve O'Donnell.

The meeting took place in the Lower Conference Room at Town Hall and was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Ms. Blaney reviewed the budgets that she is responsible for. #542 is the Recreation budget. The Program Leader manager is a new position that resulted from the increased programming being run by the Recreation Department. The other half of this salary will be paid from the Revolving Fund. The increase in the Park Staff salaries line item reflects the need for additional help and a small increase in salaries. The increase in the Youth Commission Teen Center PT line item also reflects an increase in part time staff and a slight increase in salaries. The new Camera Service line item is to improve security at Hartsuff Park, should the article requesting the cameras be approved at Town Meeting. Dues & Meetings & Training were paid by the Revolving Fund in the past. The Revolving Fund is not being funded as it had in the past, as the money paid by Comcast is now going to WRPS.

#545 is the McKinley Building budget. Ms. Blaney stated that the Day Care program would be leaving McKinley in FY 24, so there is a \$50K increase in the Building Maintenance line item to reflect that loss of revenue.

Chairman Pumphrey asked if Ms. Blaney was putting forth any articles on the Warrant. Article 38 requests \$18K for security cameras for Hartsuff Park, and Article 39 requests \$14K for Furniture & Equipment for the Community Center.

Mr. O'Donnell appeared before the Committee to represent the Community Preservation Committee. Chairman Pumphrey asked if the CPC has any articles on the Warrant. Mr. O'Donnell said that Article 14 requests funds for its FY 2024 expenses. \$34,612.03 is requested for administrative expenses, and \$69,244.06 each for Historic Resources Reserve, Community Housing Reserve and Open Space Reserve. \$449,956.41 is requested for Budgeted Reserve. Chairman Pumphrey asked how much was currently in the Reserve Fund. Mr. O'Donnell responded that the existing balance is approximately \$500K.

Article 15 is for the purchase of property at 48 Carey Street in Rockland, which is contiguous to existing parcels owned by the Town. Mr. O'Donnell explained that this purchase is not currently expected to take place, as the owner of the property has refused to perform an additional environmental assessment requested by the Town. The purchase included \$500,500 in appropriations, borrowing of \$250,250 and \$250,250 from CPC Fund receipts. Debt service would have been paid from CPC reserve funds.

Article 73 requests approval to appropriate \$7,500 in additional funds over and above amounts appropriated at a prior Town Meeting to acquire by purchase, eminent domain or otherwise, a 2.19 acre

parcel of the Spring Lake Cemetery Association for open space, conservation and recreation or public park purposes. This parcel does not include graves.

Mr. Curtis informed the Committee that the Town has \$3.975 million in free cash certified by the State.

The following budgets were voted on as presented. Ms. Sternfelt made the motions to approve, Mr. Principe seconded the motions:

<u>Department Number</u>	<u>Department Name</u>	<u>Total Department Budget</u>	<u>Approval Status</u>
433	Waste Disposal & Collection	\$1,755,052.52	Mr. Stuart: Abstained All others approved
510	Board of Health	\$146,491.03	Mr. Stuart: Abstained All others approved
542	Recreation	\$239,989.15	Unanimous
545	McKinley Building	\$172,884.20	Unanimous

The Committee then proceeded to consider the Articles in the Town Warrant. Ms. Sternfelt made the motions to approve, and Mr. Principe seconded the motions.

Special Town Meeting

<u>Article #</u>	<u>Committee Vote</u>
1	Recommended unanimously
2	Recommended unanimously
3	Recommended unanimously
4	Recommended unanimously
5	Recommended unanimously

Annual Town Meeting

<u>Article #</u>	<u>Committee Vote</u>
2	Recommended unanimously
4	Recommended unanimously
5	Recommended unanimously
6	Recommended unanimously
7	Recommended unanimously
8	Recommended unanimously
9	Recommended unanimously
12	Recommended unanimously
13	Recommended unanimously
14	Defer to Community Preservation Committee
15	Recommended unanimously
16	Recommended unanimously
17	Recommended unanimously
18	Recommended unanimously
19	Recommended unanimously

<u>Article #</u>	<u>Committee Vote</u>
20	Recommended unanimously
21	Recommended unanimously
22	Recommended unanimously
23	Recommended unanimously
24	Recommended unanimously
25	Recommended unanimously
26	Recommended unanimously
27	Recommended unanimously
28	Recommended unanimously
29	Recommended unanimously
30	Recommended unanimously
31	Recommended unanimously
32	Recommended unanimously
33	Recommended unanimously
34	Recommended unanimously
35	Recommended unanimously
36	Recommended unanimously
37	Recommended unanimously
38	Recommended unanimously
39	Recommended unanimously
40	Recommended unanimously
41	Recommended unanimously
42	Recommended unanimously
43	Recommended unanimously
44	Recommended unanimously
45	Recommended unanimously
46	Recommended unanimously
47	Recommended unanimously
48	Recommended unanimously
49	Recommended unanimously
50	Recommended unanimously
51	Recommended unanimously
52	Recommended unanimously
53	Recommended unanimously
54	Recommended unanimously
55	Recommended unanimously
56	Recommended unanimously
57	Recommended unanimously
58	Recommended unanimously
59	Recommended unanimously
60	Recommended unanimously
61	Recommended unanimously
62	Recommended unanimously

<u>Article #</u>	<u>Committee Vote</u>
63	Recommended unanimously
64	Recommended unanimously
65	Recommended unanimously
67	Recommended unanimously
73	Defer to Board of Selectmen
84	Recommended unanimously

Ms. Sternfelt made a motion to defer the Committee's April meeting if the Town does not have any further business to come before the Committee. Mr. Principe seconded the motion. All approved.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Mr. Stuart made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Principe seconded the motion. Approval to adjourn was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 9:28 PM.

The next Finance Committee meeting will take place on Monday, May 1, 2023 at 6:30 PM, prior to Town Meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Sternfelt, Finance Committee Member