



## **Finance Committee** **Meeting Minutes** **February 16, 2022**

*The regular meeting was called to order at approximately 6:00PM by Acting Chair Stefanie Coxe. Roll call of Finance Committee members present: Stefanie Coxe-Y, Jack Moylan-Y, George Perkins-Y, Nathan Ladley-Y and Robert Ciavarra-Y. Absent was Brian Gardiner. Also attending: Town Administrator Robert Whritenour and Assistant Town Administrator William Scott.*

William Scott, Assistant Town Administrator, read the advisory as required by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30, Section 18-25, and pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, an Act relative to extending certain COVID-19 measures adopted during the State of Emergency, consistent with Governor Baker's March 12, 2021 executive order and as amended and signed into law on June 16, 2021 extending Open Meeting Law provisions to April 1, 2022, and the public was welcome to attend the meeting either in person or via the alternative public access. The notice was posted and the Zoom link was provided as well.

### **1. Dennis-Yarmouth Regional Schools**

David Flynn of Dennis-Yarmouth Regional Schools reviewed the PowerPoint presentation including the following highlights:

- FY23 Budget public hearing
- FY23 budget timeline key dates
- Student enrollment data
  - Selected populations
- College plans
- Foundation enrollment
  - Five-year rolling average
  - School choice
- State aid update
- State cherry sheet revenue
  - Charter school reimbursement
  - School choice tuition
- State cherry sheet charges
- State cherry sheet net state aid
- FY23 Student Opportunity Act
  - Definition of threshold of low income
- Foundation enrollment bar chart
- Foundation budget
  - \$5K/student above base per pupil \$14,330K of high needs students
- Chapter 70 calculation

Discussion ensued on state aid. Mr. Flynn reported that the lowest per pupil amount awarded to a district as of the FY20 data is \$12,261 and the highest is \$32,000. The state average is \$17,575.

- Cape Cod expenditures per pupil
- FY23 initial budget priorities
  - Maintain a level service budget

Discussion ensued. Town Manager Whritenour stated that when the school participates in the capital planning process and informs of their needs in a timely way, vetting of the project is done through the public hearing process. With an understanding of the project, consensus can more easily be reached on funding through project (debt service and increasing of assessment) to better accommodate the completion of the project within the timeframe of the five-ten year schedule.

- Initial budget by DESE function code

Town Administrator Whritenour stated that the outstanding BAN amount of \$200K that the Town owes will be paid off by the beginning of the fiscal year, negating the need for renegotiation of the bank loan. A warrant article will be written for appropriation.

- Assessment calculation
  - FY23 budget of \$71,626,004

Discussion ensued on one of the key features that attracts young families with children to make their home in a town as the quality of the school system. Staying competitive in the job market ensures attracting a quality educational staff. Providing access to quality housing is also key to attracting qualified workers.

Discussion also ensued on the school's capital items. Mr. Flynn will provide a list of items to committee members. Steps are being taken to partner with MSBA on the renovation/replacement of the M. S. Small school.

## **2. Approval of Minutes of January 27, February 3, February 10, February 17, March 17, March 24, April 7, April 14 and April 22, 2021.**

Assistant Town Administrator Scott stated the changes made to the above minutes as suggested by the Committee at its last meeting.

**MOTION: To accept the above minutes with amendments as presented and listed by Mr. Scott.**

**Motion by: Jack Moylan**

**Seconded by: Nathan Ladley**

**Roll Call Vote: Stefanie Coxe-Y, Robert Ciavarra-Y, Jack Moylan-Y, George Perkins-Y and Nathan Ladley-Y.**

**5 ayes; 0 nays. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **3. Old Business**

Chair Coxe asked for any old business items for discussion. There were none.

## **4. New Business**

Mr. Scott noted that in an email received from Deputy Sawyer, the Fire Department requested that the \$50K in overtime from FY21 and FY22 reduced because of the pandemic be restored to the FY23 budget. Town Administrator Whritenour concurred with the Chief's request after reviewing the budget in detail.

**MOTION: To approve the increase in the overtime budget as described in the email from Deputy Chief John Sawyer sent on February 16, 2022 and presented to the meeting.**

**Motion by: George Perkins Seconded by: Jack Moylan**

**Roll Call Vote: Stefanie Coxe-Y, Robert Ciavarra-Y, Jack Moylan-Y, George Perkins-Y and Nathan Ladley-Y.**

**5 ayes; 0 nays. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **5. Future Agenda Items**

Assistant Town Administrator Scott stated that the Draft Warrant Articles, Finance Committee Report and CIP will be emailed to members for review next week.

Discussion ensued on key points to be included in the report narrative. The overall message is costs will continue to go up, in wages, healthcare, etc. Efforts must be made to grow the commercial tax base and invest in infrastructure to generate a pool of funds to take some of the pressure off of the residential taxpayer. Other suggestions included: a) offering town-owned industrial park properties to assist in businesses building in that area; b) opportunities for the Town to offer regional services to other towns; c) need to remain competitive in the job market not only by growing staff wages and benefit packages but addressing employee access to attainable housing; d) cost savings through consolidation and economies of scale; e) pursuing other sources of revenue such as grants; and f) building up Town's natural assets. Mr. Scott noted that the financial impact must be considered to balance building up the Town so as not to create a burden on Town services like Police and Fire.

Chair Coxe asked for the process going forward to approve remaining minutes of 2021. Mr. Scott replied the remainder of minutes are being assembled. Chair Coxe suggested in the interests of transparency to live-stream meetings on local access and storing recorded meetings on the website for accessible viewing.

## **6. Adjournment**

**MOTION: To adjourn.**

**Motion by: Jack Moylan Seconded by: Nathan Ladley**

**Roll Call Vote: Stefanie Coxe-Y, Jack Moylan-Y, Robert Ciavarra-Y, George Perkins-Y and Nathan Ladley-Y.**

**5 ayes; 0 nays. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:40PM.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Martin Barraford

### *Attachments:*

Annual Town Meeting Draft Warrant Articles  
Dennis-Yarmouth Regional Schools presentation