

FINANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA
WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2021

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Meeting was opened at 6:00 PM by remote participation via Zoom

- **Montague Finance Committee members:** Jen Audley, Jennifer Waryas, Francia Wisnewski (6:20), Fred Bowman, Greg Garrison, Chris Menegoni and John Hanold (6:15)
- **Others:** Town Accountant Carolyn Olsen

The Chair announced that the meeting is being streamed and recorded by the MCTV and asked if anyone else was recording the meeting. Ms. Olsen is also recording the meeting. Remote participation for both members and the public was provided by Zoom. The link to the recording is <https://vimeo.com/552661979>.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the meetings of April 14 and 28, 2021 were reviewed and approved.

Finance Committee Moved: To approve minutes of April 14 and 28, 2021.

Vote: Audley-Aye, Waryas-Aye, Bowman-Aye, Garrison-Aye, and Menegoni-Aye

Develop List of Committee Speakers for Financial Articles

Ms. Audley is prepared to field any questions that the Moderator refers to the Finance Committee, but prefers to share the floor with other members. Ms. Audley asked for volunteers to sign up address the articles on the warrant, should comments from the Finance Committee be requested or needed. The resulting list will be given to the Moderator so he knows who to call on.

The tentative list is:

Menegoni – Article 21 (use of Cannabis Impact Fee Stabilization)

Bowman – Article 20 (Phase II Study) and 23 (WPCF Stabilization)

Garrison – Articles 14 (GRMSD Capital Improvements), 15 (TFHS Tennis Courts) 18 (Town Special Articles), 19 (Building Assessment and Capital Plan)

Hanold – Articles 16 (DPW Equipment), 17 (6 Wheel Dump Truck), 22 (Financial Policy articles)

Wisnewski – Articles 6 (accept Hillside Cemetery) and 8 (WPCF Operating Budget)

There was some discussion about assignments for the Operating Budgets (Articles 7 – 10) and which were likely to be “held” for discussion. Mr. Hanold indicated interest in speaking on the Police budget. The expectation is that most requests will be introduced and defended by the department heads or committees sponsoring them (e.g., Articles 11-13, 24-29).

Ms. Audley and others noted that Finance Committee members are free to speak, on their own initiative and for their own position, on any article, if recognized by the Moderator.

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Ms. Wisnewski left at 6:37 PM

Updates from Town Accountant

Ms. Olsen requested a meeting date to review and discuss the report prepared by Mr. Kingsley on Financial Forecasting for a five year horizon. June 9 was the best choice.

Governor Baker has announced that public bodies may resume meeting in person on June 15, but Montague will not determine if it will do so at that time, or adopt an optional remote/in-person schedule, until next week.

Topics not Anticipated in the last 48 Hours

Ms. Audley received a bulletin from the Mass Municipal Association reporting that the State Senate has opened debate on the FY22 State Budget, which will be followed by reconciliation with the version from the State House before submittal to the Governor.

Agendas for Future Meetings

May 22 – Annual Town Meeting at Franklin County Technical School 9:00 AM

June 2 – No Meeting

June 9 – Kingsley Report on Financial Forecasting. Ms. Audley will email materials to members in advance.

June 16, 23 and 30 – No Meeting (tentative)

July 7 – Year-end Funds Transfers (no candidates at this time) and Committee Re-organization

August TBD --

Adjournment

Finance Committee Moved: To adjourn at 6:52 PM.

Vote: Audley-Aye, Waryas-Aye, Bowman-Aye, Garrison-Aye, Menegoni-Aye, and Hanold-Aye.

Respectfully submitted by John Hanold

List of Documents and Exhibits:

- Material for Annual Town Meeting: Warrant, Finance Committee Report to Town Meeting, Motions and Background Information