

Bd of Finance Minutes  
Regular Meeting April 5, 2023  
Warren Town Hall

Board of Finance members present: Eric Schoenfeld, Craig Nelson, David Robinson, John Favreau, Robyn Kasler, Luke Tanner

Selectmen present: Greg LaCava, Alex Papp, Tim Angevine

Also present: Colleen Frisbie, Town Treasurer

The meeting was opened at 7:02pm by Chair Eric Schoenfeld.

1. Minutes of meeting of March 1, 2023-*J. Favreau moved to accept the minutes of the March 1, 2023 meeting. Second by C. Nelson. All in favor, the motion carried.*
2. Additions to the agenda-*None*
3. Chris Leone, Region 6 Superintendent presented the Region 6 FY 2023-2024 budget. He noted that this is the last Region 6 budget as the next will be the new Region 20. The budget received board approval on April 3 and will go to a hearing on April 17 and meeting on May 1. This is the last year of annual changes to town allocations as the new region will go to a 5 year metric. Warren is looking at a \$94,000 decrease in the new FY as is Goshen, while Morris will increase. The budget shows a slight increase of 0.5%. The budget includes morning preschool in Warren.
4. Adoption of Resolution-*C. Nelson moved to adopt a resolution acknowledging C. Leone's work on behalf of Region 6, second by R. Kasler. All in favor, the motion carried.*
5. Review of FY 2022-2023 expenses-Recycling is high due to increased efforts by our residents. It had been down the past two years so the budget had been reduced accordingly. Snow removal is looking good. No other issues.
6. Arrow Point Road-G. LaCava had asked the board to recommend to the selectmen a sale price for the piece of property that the Arrow Point Water Company would like to purchase. The board would like further information on the facts of the request such as current capacity of the well and future needs. LaCava will relay this to the water company.
7. Defined Benefit Plan-It has been decided to make the move from defined benefit plan to offer either an annuity or lump sum payment effective June 30, 2023, with \$150,000 to come from fund balance to accomplish this. The move would put the defined benefit plan behind us to the benefit of the town and the participants. *R. Kasler moved to add this change to the town meeting agenda, second by C. Nelson. All in favor, the motion carried.*
8. Budget Workshop-The Compensation Committee presented its recommendation for the First Selectman's salary after reviewing salaries from other towns, specifically those of similar size, as well as performance. They suggested a 4% cost of living increase as well a \$5,000 one-time merit

payment. *D. Robinson moved to accept the recommendation of the Compensation Committee, second by R. Kasler. All in favor, the motion carried.*

G. LaCava reviewed the draft budget. It is a tough year with inflation hitting hard in most every area. Salary increases were settled on at 4% after studying other towns. A new part-time custodian/handyperson position will be added to work on maintenance of our town buildings as well as pitch in with mowing and plowing. Other lines of note were office equipment (many computers need upgrading as well as the server), additional hours for admin assistant, paramedic intercept, civil defense (AEDs and additional radios), improvements to town properties (overdue maintenance on most buildings, replacement of heating systems, etc), town road needs.

Discussion followed as to balancing the increased budget, increases in assessments, and lowering the mill rate-how to keep tax increase down as much as possible while supporting the budget and taking care of the town's needs. *C. Nelson moved to present the draft budget as amended resulting in a mill rate of 13.15 mills to the town budget hearing on May 4, second by L. Tanner. All in favor, the motion carried.*

9. Public comment-LaCava read a message of thanks from Chris Leone

*D. Robinson moved to adjourn at 9:50 pm. Second by L. Tanner, all in favor.*

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Tiedmann, clerk

Attachments are available in the town clerk's office.