

Town of Charlton
Finance Committee Minutes
Selectman Room Town Hall
Date: March 30, 2022 at 6:30pm
Minutes taken by: Jaclyn Bonner, Clerk

Attendees: John Grondalski-Vice Chairman, Henry Camosse-Chairman, Kristen Lemire, Carol Brodeur, Keith Johnson, Kristin Kustigian, Jason Julian

Absent: N/A

Guests: Ashley Obrzut -Town Finance Director & Andrew Golas-Town Administrator

1. Call meeting to order at time

Meeting was called to order by Hank Camosse at 6:30pm on Wednesday March 30.

2. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

Kristen Lemire made a motion to accept minutes, Jason Julian Second. All in favor. The motion to pass the minutes from February 16, 2022, and March 16, 2022 passes. (Roll call all members present say yes).

3. Department Budget Meetings

a. Water and Sewer Departments

- The Superintendent of water/sewer Peter Boria is in attendance to speak about the water sewer enterprise budget.
- Hank Camosse asking for the value of the stabilization fund to which Peter replies \$2.2M.
- Kristen Lemire asking if the price for operations increase over 3 years is locked. Peter Responding that the contract has been changed to a term of 5 years and the price is indeed fixed with increases.
- Jason Julian asking how many years it has been since the last increase. Peter responding that Veolia had kept the price low at there expense.

b. Bay Path VTRHS

- Kyle Brenner the Superintendent-Director and Irene Houle the business manager of bay path attend the meeting to discuss the budget. A detailed presentation of the budget is attached.
- Hank Camosse asking if the school has a waiting list for the veterinary services program. Kyle Brenner responding states that the school has 20 students currently on a waitlist.
- Kristin Kustigian asking why the school might have a waitlist if enrollment has decreased. Kyle Brenner responding that the number of seniors graduating was higher than the number of incoming students.
- Kristin Kustigian asking what the \$1.1M increase in chapter 70 monies would total as a percentage. Irene Houle responding this is a 10% increase from the state due to a higher interest in vocational schools.

4. Review of Submitted 2023 Town Proposed Budget

- Town finance director Ashley Obrzut provides the finance committee with a budget explanation sheet and expense budget packet (attached).
- Hank Camosse states that the budget explanations were being presented due to a variance between the regional school's budget and the number the regional school presented.
- Option one presented is budgeted to the school's original numbers.
- Option two presented has the regional school at the new requested number; includes two new police officers; and cuts the two part time requests from the clerk and the COA. Furthermore, the stabilization will drop from \$200K to \$100K with any extra funding needed to go to town hall. This scenario has receipt income at a maximum.
- Option three presented has everything the same with stabilization funding at \$0.
- Kristin Kustigian asking if option three leaves the three cut positions mentioned above. Ashley Obrzut responds yes – the three positions above would stay with option three.
- Jason Julian asking how many positions the school will be cutting at 5.6% - Ashley responding none. Andrew adding that we will need to take the town of Dudley's position into account within the next two weeks.
- Hank Camosse asking what the benefit of going from a double to a triple A rated community would be. Andrew responding that a higher rating would save 2% to 3% on interest. Ashley adding that only certain banks will work with towns below a certain rating. Hank stating that a higher rating should be taken into consideration as a goal.
- John Grondalski asking if filling the requested town clerk position would be possible if Dudley provided a lower level of support which would force us to reduce our school number to keep the appropriate share ratios. Andrew Golas responding that we will be fill the position as soon as possible.
- Hank Camosse entertains a motion to recommend option three to the finance director. Kristen Lemire makes the motion to accept option three, Jason Julian second. All members present vote yes, option three is recommended.

5. Other agenda items not known at the time of this posting

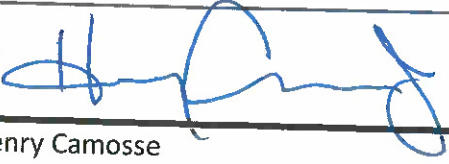
- John Grondalski stating that we have level budgeted gas and diesel for the past four years and asking if we have increased this expense based on higher prices. Andrew Golas responding that we increased utility costs but did not increase the gas and diesel line item.
- Kristen Lemire asking if we are looking into an electric infrastructure investment, specifically from fleet. Andrew Golas responding that we have been looking into hybrid options to replace police cruisers.
- Hank Camosse asking about the American Rescue Plan Act unallocated monies. Andrew responding that the money does not require a vote to allocate and a draft for use of the money was sent to Finance Committee in October of 2021.
- John Grondalski asking about the state of Snow and Ice. Ashley responding that Highway is currently over budget by \$120K for Snow and Ice but will most likely finish the year over budget by \$200K which will use the remainder of free cash.
- Andrew Golas informing the committee that the fire chief will attend the next meeting.

6. Adjourn Meeting

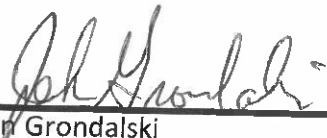
Motion to adjourn was made by John Grondalski at 7:37 P.M. Seconded by Jason Julian. Motion is accepted by all present members, meeting adjourned.

Town of Charlton Finance Committee Meeting Minutes


Voted:

X 

Henry Camosse

X 

John Grondalski

X 

Keith Johnson

X

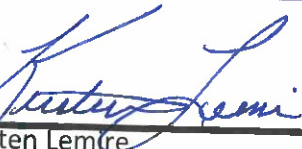
Jason Julian

X

Kristin Kustigian

X

Carol Brodeur

X 

Kristen Lemfre

X

Alternate