

RECEIVED

By Jim Alexander - Asst. Town Clerk at 2:22 pm, Sep 12, 2023

Maynard Finance Committee Meeting

March 13th, 2023

Location: Zoom, <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89820275897?pwd=OEpmWhSekpYSGZBQlFWMVpyWC8zUT09>

Members Present:

Alannah Gustavson
Ken Estabrook
Katie Moore
Peter Campbell
Khadijah Brown
Jillian Prendergast

Member Absent:

Cavan Stone

Other Attendees:

Angela Lawless, Bill Kohlman, Natasha Rivera

1. Alannah called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. She took roll call and verified all devices were working properly.
2. Our first agenda item was to speak with Angela (Fire Chief) and discuss their budget for FY24. She discussed the need to fill a Deputy Chief position, which was not likely for FY24, and the voids our town has because of this. One example was the fire prevention program. Also, call volume is up 30% compared to FY21. She would like to bring an Advanced Life Support service to Maynard in the future, as now we only have basic services. The transition time for this would be roughly 3 years. Right now all new hires go to Academy, and she would like to see this changed. Capital projects include replacement of car 1, a command car, and covered under free cash. Their budget also includes 15K of radio upgrades, which is shared with the police dept. Staffing, fleet work, digital way call volume, will all continue to be challenges. Angela signed off at 7:37 PM.
3. Next discussion item was the Town Charter Articles. Bill Kohlman chairs this committee and was present to give us information regarding the articles.
 - a. FinCom members can stay appointed until their new position starts, rather than resign immediately.
 - b. Master plan was mentioned.
 - c. Changes to how citizens petitions were proposed were made. The Town Council maintains final law.
 - d. Select Boards power was broken down in bullet points, rather than paragraph form.

Bill signed off at 8:05 PM.

4. We followed this with Town Meeting Warrant Articles. These come to us via Select Board. We then go through them to vote on recommendations (or not) and add comments.
 - a. Citizens Petition re: Dept of Energy and Stretch Code 2022 – Potentially, we can ask the Town Planner to speak on this. Energy codes are challenging and a greater understanding would be helpful.
 - b. Draft Control A – Town Report Acceptance
 - c. Draft Control Ae (non-binding) – Re: Green Meadow operating without Fossil Fuel
 - d. Water and Sewage Controls – will be discussed at next Select Board meeting – Justin can come back to speak on these more
 - e. Draft Control Aj – for the town to appropriate (or transfer) from the General Stabilization (or other available funds) to the school, to give them a total budget of \$22,744,577. The schools want to be brought up to level service. We need to know if this would be a cut or an override? Alannah wants more information on FY23 to FY24 and what a level service increase looks like. Jillian asked about grants and how they fit in – have they been able to hire staff with grants, and how has that increased level funding? Can the Circuit Breaker funds be used still?
5. Chair comments: Alannah talked to Jeff S about a Tri Board meeting and whether this would happen prior to town meeting to discuss these items more, or after town meeting to talk about funding changes and an override for FY25. Timing for GM Building Committee, recommendations must be finalized by the 27th for the SB to vote for them in the first week of April – we should look at those numbers soon.
6. Next meeting, 3/27 will be with Assabet Valley Regional School – some wondered if we could wait for that meeting and tackle the 29 articles that we must discuss first. April 3rd could be a potential extra meeting if needed. Public Hearing for Town Meeting is Monday, May 8th – all are invited.
7. Moving to approve 3 dates of minutes:
 - a. 2/11 Joint Budget Meeting – Peter 1st, Khadijah seconded. 5-0 (Ken signed off prior to this)
 - b. 2/27 FinCom Meeting – Katie 1st, Khadijah seconded. 5-0.
 - c. 3/8 Joint GM Building Committee with Select Board, School Committee, and FinCom – Peter 1st, Katie seconded. 4-0, 1 abstain.
8. We adjourned at 10:00. Khadijah 1st, Peter seconded. 5-0.

Reserve Fund Allocation for FY23: \$250,000

Transfers: \$50,000

Reserve Fund Balance: \$200,000