

Lunenburg Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2023

Members Present: Board Member Tom Gray, Board Member Dave Passios, Board Member Jean Russell, Board Member Jay Simeone, Chair Evan Watters.

1. Call to Order

The meeting opened at 7:03 PM.

2. Announcements

Evan Watters announces Dave Passios has joined the Finance Committee. The board now consists of 6 members.

3. Public Comment

No public Comment.

4. Town Manager Report

Heather Lemieux does not have any additional reports but wants to review some of the articles with the Committee.

5. Old Business

a. Deferred STM Warrant Articles Updates

Article 1

Article 1 addresses budget adjustments for FY 24. Heather Lemieux refers to a previously sent out chart that reflects the changes in revenue projection.

- There is an additional \$200,000 difference from the annual town meeting estimate.
- The estimated state aid presented at the annual town meeting was \$119,000 lower than projected since the annual town meeting.
- The balance levy capacity of \$9,772.70 will go towards the overall additional allowable appropriation.
- A salary survey was done at the request of the select board chair. The board all agreed to add an additional \$20,000. This is based on the area comparable to other towns.

Motion to approve Article 1 by Tom Gray, seconded by Jay Simeone. Roll call vote. Unanimous vote.

Article 2

A total of \$1,413.52 was meant to be carried over at the end of the fiscal year, but ultimately it wasn't. These wages were supposed to be paid out FY 23. This money came from excess revenue.

Motion to approve Article 2 by Tom Gray, seconded by Dave Passios. Roll call vote. All in favor. Unanimous vote.

Article 3

This article addresses collective bargaining that was finalized by the sick board and the bargaining unit. Comp analysis was completed by every bargaining unit to make sure employees were being paid fairly and by agreement it was found based on the 8 communities that were surveyed that the positions within the bargaining unit were severely underpaid compared to comparable positions and comparable towns between 8 and 20 percent. The bargaining agreement has a requirement to fund the first year.

The board inquired about what employees this would cover. Heather Lemieux states it would cover Assistant Town Clerk, Town Accountant, Assistant Treasurer, Assistance Collector, DPW Executive Assistant, public Safety Coordinator, Conservation Administrator, Administrative Assistance. This would be an unknown cost but would be within budget.

Motion to recommend approval for Article 3 by Tom Grey, seconded by Jean Russell. Roll call vote. Unanimous vote.

b. Deferred STM Warrant Article Votes

There are no additional deferments to address.

6. New Business

There was a short discussion about preparing for the November 13th Special Town Meeting starting at 7:00 PM at the High School. Members are to check in and obtain their voting clickers.

7. Public Comment

No public comment.

8. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Jay Simeone, seconded by Tom Gray. Roll call vote.

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 PM.