

Lunenburg Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
Bilotta Meeting Room
Lunenburg Town Hall
April 11, 2024

Present Members: Chair Evan Watters, Vice Chair Chris Menard, Clerk Tiffaney Tavares, Board Member Tom Gray, Board Member Dave Passios, Board Member Jean Russell (Zoom), Board Member Jay Simeone

1. Call to Order

The meeting opened at 7:00 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Announcements

There were no announcements.

4. Public Comment

Evan Watters states the Boys and Girls Club is inquiring if the Finance Committee will be putting a team together for Are You Smarter Than Our 6th Graders.

5. Town Manager Report

There were no reports from the Town Manager.

6. Finance Director Report

There were no reports from the Finance Director. Ezequiel Ayala states he is currently reviewing the primary quarterly reports. Once completed they will be provided to the Select Board then the Finance Committee the following week.

7. New Business

a. FinCom Report for Warrant Review

Evan Watters and Tiffaney Tavares provided an updated report with the 10 bullet points and has addressed everything aside from 40S, the hiring freeze, and the increase in waste removal.

The Committee reviewed and adjusted the document titled Lunenburg Finance Committee Annual Report for FY 25.

Evan Watters will review the numbers and then email the document to each member individually.

Chris Menard believes there needs to be more time than a week between the hearing and when the report is due.

8. Old Business

a. FY25 Budget Discussion

There was no discussion about the FY 25 budget.

b. FY25 Override Discussion

There was no discussion about the FY 25 override.

c. Votes on Recommendations for Warrant Articles

There are 2 articles (Article 4 & Article 5) that the Committee is currently deferred.

Article 4: Article to see if the town will vote to raise, appropriate or transfer funds from a sum of money for payment of prior years' expenses.

Heather Lemieux provided the total of \$1,994.55.

There was a motion to recommend approval for Article 4 by Chris Menard, seconded by Dave Passios. Unanimous approval 6-0 with 1 member absent.

Article 5: Article to transfer from available funds all sums of money necessary to amend the amounts voted for the town's FY 24 budget from the reserve fund.

Heather Lemieux states the snow and ice numbers from the last snowstorm totaled \$226,000. The Town Manager recommends that money come out of the reserve fund that currently has \$275,000. There will be a minimum amount as well for the salary reserve to make that supplemental amount that will be needed for FY 24.

Chris Menard questions if the reserve account is the account that is voted on and Heather Lemieux confirms. Chris Menard recommends that someone should come to the Finance Committee and ask them to transfer from the reserve account to avoid having the warrant article. For these reasons Chris Menard votes no as a recommendation.

The Committee agrees to remain deferred on Article 5.

9. Minutes

The Committee has not reviewed the minutes so this will be added to the next meeting's agenda.

Chris Menard states there are a few meeting minutes that can't be found. Evan Watters is planning to address this issue at a later date.

10. Committee Reports

Chris Menard states the Parks Committee has met and is planning a clean-up day at the town beach and building. The volunteer events are provided on the recreation department's webpage with sign up ability. If anyone wants to clean up roads, you can go to the DPW to get a slightly different yellow bag.

Dave Passios attended the Association of Town Finance Committee meeting and there was a discussion about smart growth. Dave Passios asked Senator Jim Crowley what was going on with smart growth and was told nothing is being done at this point. There was also a discussion about the proposed changes to the Municipal Empowerment Act. Dave Passios provided that presentation to the Committee.

Evan Watters states the Master Plan Steering Committee met. They discussed a report that was last completed in 2002. Evan Watters states that the needs of the town then were almost identical to what they are now. 30% of the projects that were suggested have been completed. The remaining were either started and not finished or not started at all.

Evan Watters states the Board of Health met and came out with new regulations that will drop the parts down to about 4 parts per trillion. This means we are failing on several of our wells and water services for those that are on public water supply. There will be a financial impact for residents who are on public water.

11. Topics for Future Meetings

Evan Watters started a list of topics to be discussed.

12. Upcoming Meetings:

- a. 4/25/2024 - Tentative Meeting
- b. 5/4/2024 - Annual Town Meeting

13. Important Dates:

- a. 5/18/2024 - Annual Town Election

14. Public Comment

Evan Watters and Tom Gray plan on being in attendance on April 26th from 7PM-9PM for Are You Smarter Than Our 6th Graders.

There were no public comments.

15. Adjourn

There was a motion to adjourn by Chris Menard, seconded by Dave Passios.

The meeting closed at 9:28 PM.