

Town of West Stockbridge Finance Committee

Meeting Notes: 03/01/23 6:00 PM – Final Review & Vote

In Attendance:

Finance Committee (FC) Members - Dan Buehler, Frank Landsberger, Bob Salerno, Steve Sautman, Ed Sporn

Other: Kathleen Keresey (SB), Andy Krouss (SB), Marie Ryan, Curt Wilson, Jamie Boyer, Marc Portier – Police Chief

Final discussion of FY24 Budget review of Draft 2/28/23 V8. It was agreed to review, discuss, and vote on the budget by major sections instead of by each line item.

- **General Government:**

- Motion: Frank, Seconded: Ed.
- Discussed Select Board increase of \$1000 for newest member and what language meant for implementation. In order to simplify and make equal, Steve proposed increasing to a total of \$3000 to have an equal increase split for all SB Members. The change was approved by all Finance Committee members.
- Roll Call vote: All Finance Committee – Aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- **Protect, Person & Property – Police:**

- Motion: Frank, Seconded: Ed.
- Dan asked Marc about the police schedule with some days and shift currently not covered.
- Marc answered that the addition of 1 new full-time Officer will cover all the open shifts plus some of the current overtime.
- Roll Call vote: All Finance Committee – Aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- **Protect, Person & Property – Fire & EMT:**

- Motion: Dan, Seconded: Ed.
- Marie informed the FC that Austin from the shared Ambulance with Richmond asked for an increase of \$10,000 beyond his initial proposal to start a Ambulance Stabilization Fund with Richmond.
- Bob commented that West Stockbridge has Free Cash and its own Stabilization and Capital Funds already if additional funds are needed. The increase is also passed the budget review dates.
- The FC did not approve this additional increase request.
- Roll Call vote: All Finance Committee – Aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- **Education:**

- Motion: Dan, Seconded: Ed.
- Roll Call vote: All Finance Committee – Aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- **Public Works:**
 - Motion: Frank, Seconded: Dan.
 - Roll Call vote: All Finance Committee – Aye. Motion carried 5-0.
- **Public Works - Facilities:**
 - Motion: Frank, Seconded: Dan.
 - Kathleen commented on issues at the Transfer Station where people were not following the rules, dropping trash bags and demanding the attendant to properly dispose of them, and being rude. A discussion followed on options at other towns where fees are charged either for dump stickers, or per bag dumped. As the Transfer Station is a common good for the town, in order to get a free sticker the resident might need to sign a form to follow the rules or lose access. It was reported that the Board of Health continues to look at options for the Transfer Station.
 - Roll Call vote: All Finance Committee – Aye. Motion carried 5-0.
- **Human Services:**
 - Motion: Frank, Seconded: Dan.
 - Roll Call vote: All Finance Committee – Aye. Motion carried 5-0.
- **Culture & Recreation:**
 - Motion: Frank, Seconded: Ed.
 - Roll Call vote: All Finance Committee – Aye. Motion carried 5-0.
- **Debt Service:**
 - Motion: Frank, Seconded: Ed.
 - Roll Call vote: All Finance Committee – Aye. Motion carried 5-0.
- **Inter-government Expenses:**
 - Motion: Frank, Seconded: Ed.
 - Roll Call vote: All Finance Committee – Aye. Motion carried 5-0.
- **Unclassified Expenses:**
 - Motion: Frank, Seconded: Ed.
 - Roll Call vote: All Finance Committee – Aye. Motion carried 5-0.
- **Special Articles:**
 - Motion: Frank, Seconded: Dan.
 - Free Cash is being used for Capital Items. ARPA funds are being used for Wastewater Treatment Plant capital and upgrades.
 - Roll Call vote: All Finance Committee – Aye. Motion carried 5-0.
- Approve Finance Committee Meeting Minutes from 2/8/23, 2/9/23, 2/15/23 and 2/16/23.
 - Roll Call vote: All Finance Committee – Aye. Motion carried 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.