

Town of Hubbardston

Finance Committee – Remote Meeting Minutes May 6, 2020

Remote meeting called to order: 7:35 PM via Zoom

Members present remotely: Shannon Erb, Joshua Lerner, Susan Rayne, Chuck Reed, Maria Tourigny

Other remote attendees: Ryan McLane, Town Administrator; Britney Blaney-Anderson

Mr. McLane facilitated the remote meeting via Zoom and at the invitation of the Chair introduced the meeting as being conducted remotely consistent with Governor Baker's Executive Order of March 12, 2020, due to the current State of Emergency in the Commonwealth due to the outbreak of the "COVID-19 Virus."

1) *Approval of minutes of prior meetings.* No minutes were submitted.

2) *Review of FY2021 Budget Status and Warrant Articles.*

- a) Mr. McLane reported that at the QRSD School Committee meeting held on March 5 Ms. Duval proposed a \$1,000,000 reduction to the proposed FY2021 budget, resulting from the application of expected savings in FY2020 due to COVID; consequently, the Town's projected assessment increase was now estimated at 2.39%, assuming that no further reductions in revenues were forthcoming. The School Committee did not vote at that meeting to approve a budget that incorporated that proposed reduction. Ms. Rayne noted that even with that reduction, Hardwick was facing an increase that it had previously said it could not absorb. It was not known, Mr. McLane stated, when the School Committee would next meet. Discussion ensued over whether to rely on the projected 2.39% increase, given that the School Committee had not voted the budget on which it was based; nevertheless, it was the sense of the meeting to rely on that figure since Ms. Duval had communicated it directly to Mr. McLane.
- b) In terms of the Town's FY2021 budget, Mr. McLane proposed that all capital items with the exception of the assessment of the Library's foundation and the purchase of new computers and hardware for Town Departments (totaling \$30,000) be deferred until a September Special Town Meeting.
- c) Town Meeting is currently scheduled for June 23.
- d) The Committee reviewed the current draft of the 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Only motion duly made by Mr. Reed, and seconded by Ms. Erb, it was unanimously by roll call vote

VOTED: To recommend the following articles in the 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant:

- Article 1 (officers)
- Article 2 (reports)

- Article 3 (DOT agreements)
- Article 4 (educational grants)
- Article 5 (Holden Hospital account)
- Article 6 (certain revolving accounts)

VOTED: To abstain from recommending the following articles in the 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant pending the finalization of the amounts to be included therein:

- Article 7 (Total General Fund and Operating Budget)
- Article 8 (Monty Tech assessment)
- Article 9 (QRSD operating budget assessment)
- Article 10 (QRSD budgeted debt assessment)

VOTED: To recommend the following articles in the June 23, 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant:

- Article 11 (Cable Advisory Committee)
- Article 12 (Master Plan Implementation Chapter)
- Article 13 (Town Center design)
- Article 14 (Capital expenses, with all deleted except for \$10,000 to fund the assessment of the Library foundation and \$20,000 to fund the purchase of new computers and related hardware for Town Departments)
- Article 15 (CPA amounts – to be completed by the CPA)
- Article 16 (Rainbow's End playground repairs)

VOTED: To take no action on the following articles in the 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant:

- Article 18 (special act renaming the Board of Selectmen)
- Article 19 (amendments to general and zoning bylaws to rename the Board of Selectmen)

- e) The Committee next discussed Article 17 in the 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant, which proposed a Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion to finance the repair of the Hubbardston Center School roof. On motion duly made by Mr. Reed and seconded by Mr. Lerner it was unanimously by roll call vote

VOTED: To recommend Article 17 in the 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

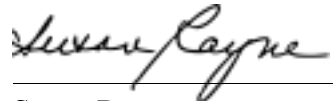
- 3) *Other/New Business:* The next meeting of the Committee will be on May 26, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. and will be held remotely and jointly with the meeting of the Board of Selectmen scheduled for that date and time.
- 4) *Adjournment.* On motion duly made by Mr. Reed and seconded by Ms. Erb, it was unanimously by roll call vote

VOTED: To adjourn.

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Adjourned at 8:31 P.M.

Minutes submitted by:	Susan Rayne, Clerk <i>Pro Tem</i>
Minutes approved by:	Susan Rayne, Chair



Susan Rayne

Date: July 13, 2020