

Fin Com Minutes for 7 September 2021 – Approved 01/04/2022

Newbury Town Library – 7:30pm

Attending were Linda Allen, Eugene Case, Frank Visconti, and Erica Jacobsen (chair). A quorum thus being established the meeting was called to order at 7:32 by chairman Jacobsen. Tracy Blais (Town Administrator) was also in attendance

Town Administrator's report & discussion:

Presented by Tracy with FY2021 year-end statements. Despite COVID by year end no revenue replacement necessary – no significant deficits, “did really well”. ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) money has been received \$1,068,293. Approximately half of expected, expect other have in FY2022. Discussion of the parameters for use of the federal money. Very new, still awaiting state guidance on what it can be used for – no guidance received. Triton receives separate funding (ESSER 2).

Town Administrator commented on a question posed by FinCom after July meeting about establishing stabilization funds for specific purpose. It is allowed under Mass General law to establish multiple stabilization funds with a specific purpose. Need a majority of town meeting to establish a fund, and to move money into the fund. To spend or repurpose it, it would require 2/3rd majority at town meeting to spend it on the established purpose or to repurpose the money to another account. There are guidelines from the department of revenue.

Follow-up question from Erica Jacobsen – putting money aside in the town hall fund doesn't prohibit the town from moving funding with a simple majority at town meeting. The current Stabilization fund is tied to the capital asset replacement schedule to avoid borrowing. Two-thirds vote is needed to move money out of stabilization.

Gene asked a question about carry-over from FY2021 – Tracy explained how funds are encumbered and carried over. Examples of products/supplies ordered in May 2021, but not invoiced or received before end of the year the money allocated will be carried over for accounting under the proper year.

Ambulance enterprise fund closed out the year with a balance of \$202,439.96. Tracy confirmed it is self-funding and working as designed. The enterprise fund also absorbs their indirect costs are charged against the fund.

Capital projects being contemplated – Bathroom project is in front of conservation commission. Town Hall & COA are both at the select board stage. Select board is expected to discuss how they would like to move forward in the next couple of months. Fin Com will be involved as appropriate and joint meetings scheduled to make sense for people's time. Basketball courts are well underway.

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Gene Case asked if there were any issues at Fire Department, Tracy reports 4 full time members who are members are IAFF successful negotiations, memorialized current practices. There is overtime budgeted, all in line.

Currently there is no there is no call for a special town meeting this fall. Due in large part to great oversight by the town department heads.

Jim Moran (town resident) asked two questions:

1. Plan for a fall town meeting – Erica & Tracy responded that this is under the purview of the Select board and unlikely to be needed – referencing the previous discussion.
2. Clear Gov hasn't been updated since December – Tracy explained it is updated twice a year and documents have been sent. Should be updated shortly.

Committee reports:

- No CPC or Master Plan updates for this meeting (Marshall not in attendance)
- DCC (District Communications Committee) – subcommittee of School Committee – report by Erica Jacobsen Fin Com rep. All 3 towns saw the facilities assessment for Triton High School and Middle School campus. The total package is estimated at 61.5 million dollars over 4 years. Opening discussion held – no concrete steps discussed by the DCC – this is the starting point for all discussion. (Full report was distributed electronically and available on Triton website). Discussing how to approach – how to start talking with the 3 communities – opportunity to partner with the state (MSBA). Very early discussions – next meeting in October to discuss how to move forward. Three towns have established working groups to discuss changes to the formula. Previous select board stated they didn't want to move away from the state formula. Currently Select Board Chair Greco is open to discussion.

Jim Moran asked a question about unfunded OPEB – Erica explained it is part of the School Committee budget. Gene Case said now it is pay as you go right now. School Committee brings the budget to towns.

New business –

- Erica is collecting contact information to help coordinate among the committee.
- Erica is looking at the Town Offices schedule to coordinate the timing so we can have all meetings in proper location for recording.
- 1st Tuesday of month shouldn't be a conflict

Our next meeting will be Tue Oct 5th of October at the Town Hall, 12 Kent Way, Byfield, MA 01922. Asking for a secretary to help with meetings. There is line item for funding. Tracy to see if there is interest.

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Jim Moran asked for an update to the Master Plan. Erica answered that Marshall our representative was not in attendance, so no update. Tracy says the committee is working to find a consultant to help wrap up the document.

There being no other business before the committee a motion being made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.