Town of Newbury
Finance Committee Monthly Meeting
Town Hall – 12 Kent Way
Tuesday February 18, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Excused: Kavy Yesair
In Attendance: Tracy Blais

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jespersen at 7:02pm.

The minutes for the February 4th meeting were not yet available.

The calendar of meetings up to and including the 2020 Annual Town Meeting was reviewed and confirmed. The Articles for the ATM will be posted by April 12th. A meeting of the Finance Committee will be posted for just before the ATM.

There were the following transfers:

Police Department request $6,600 for the cost of damages to a weather proof container for emergency communications system. The container is being replaced by one that the Town will own. A motion was made and seconded to authorize the expenditure of up to $6,600 to pay for billed repairs to the rented container. The vote was 6,0,0. The motion passed.

The Inspection Services is going back to a full time position. We are close to hiring a new person. An increase of up to $58,680 is requested by the town to fund the full time position of the Building Commissioner. A motion was made and seconded and the vote was 6,0,0. The motion passed.

There was a request of $7,500 for the Tax Title and Foreclosure account, the account will be in a deficit this year and the money will bring it up to a positive balance. The money is needed for when we have expenses on a foreclosure, the money has to be paid in advance and then may be recouped after the lien on a property is settled. A motion was made and seconded and all those in attendance voted in the affirmative. The motion passed, 6,0,0.

There was a request for $5,900 for the response clicker rental for use at the Annual and Special Town Meetings. The amount established for the rental is 400 clickers. A motion was made and seconded and the members voted 6,0,0. The motion passed.

We are working through the budget with all of the department managers and are using the ClearGov Module. We are doing the budget calculations on both the new and old systems this year to make sure it work and agrees with our historic practices.

The budget revenue increase this year is not going to be as great as in past years, we may be able to see close to level funding for health costs this year. Other budget items will be increased this year, we will see increases in personnel costs.

We will be planning for a new Town Clerk. The Town may look at changing the elected position to an appointed position.
Jim Moran asked when the audited financial statements would be ready for review. The Town has not yet responded to the management letter, so the report is not yet complete.

Our next meeting was confirmed for 3 March 2020.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 7:55, the motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Goodwin