

Town of Northbridge
Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2022 at 6:30PM

Committee Members in Attendance: Plato Adams, Jim Barron, Steve Gogolinski David Graham and Sean Ferry.

Finance Committee Member(s) not in Attendance: Robert Dearborn and Chris Pilla

Town of Northbridge Administration in Attendance:

Kelly Bol, Director – Council on Aging, Town of Northbridge, MA

Adam Gaudette, Town Manager - Town of Northbridge, MA

Tim Labrie, Chief of Police, Town of Northbridge, MA

Neil Vaidya, Town Accountant, Town of Northbridge, MA

Linda Zywiec, Town Clerk, Town of Northbridge, MA

Other Attendees:

Heather Elster, Executive Director, Whitinsville Community Center,

Bob Evans, Technical Director, Blackstone Valley Education Hub,
Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce

Jeannie Hebert, President & CEO, Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce

Craig Maxim, Director of Program Development and Community Relations at Family Continuity

Barry Gallant, Taxpayer, Town of Northbridge

Finance Committee Meeting Called to Order

At 6:30 PM, Plato Adams, Finance Committee Chair for the Town of Northbridge, called the meeting to order.

Introduction of the New Finance Committee Member - Sean Ferry

Mr. Adams introduced the new Finance Committee Member, Sean Ferry, to the Finance Committee and to the audience.

Public Hearing per Code of Bylaws

At 6:31 PM, Plato Adams, Finance Committee Chair for the Town of Northbridge opened the public meeting as follows:

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Sections 2-3(b) and 6-6(a) of the Northbridge Home Rule Charter, that the Finance Committee will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 6:30 PM, in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA to discuss all articles contained in the Spring Annual Town Meeting Warrant and the proposed operating budget as submitted. All interested persons are invited to attend.

Public Hearing Discussion Topics

RECEIVED
22 SEP 29 PM 3:19
TOWN CLERK

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Town Manager Budget Update

- Review of the Budget Calendar
- Review of the FY 2023 Operating Budget
- Review of the Spring Annual Town Meeting Warrant
- Review of the Capital Funding Plan
- Questions from the Public

Proposed - New Electric Sign at the Town Hall

A question / comment were raised on the new Electric Signage that is being proposed for the Town Hall. It was noted by the Town Manager that the local historical commission was contacted about the Electric Signage and they had no issues with the proposed addition of the new Electronic Sign at the Town Hall.

Fire Station Building Project

A question / comment were raised by Barry Gallant on the fire station building project and in particular the use of modular type products in building the fire station.

Mr. Gallant has requested information on the project via FOIA.
It was noted by Mr. Gallant that the BPCC was not present at the Public Hearing.

It was also note by the Town Manager that the purpose of the Public Hearing was to review the various Town Warrant Meeting Articles, etc. and the BPCC was not required to be in attendance. Questions / concerns on the fire station project can be directed to the BPCC at their periodic meetings and scheduled public hearings.

Per the Town Manager, since the \$19 million or so of funding the building of the fire station was approved at Town Meeting and at the ballot box, roughly \$2 - \$2.5 million of architectural, engineering and contingency costs are included in that \$19 million dollar total, building construction costs have increased by 22%. Thus an additional amount of \$4 million is being requested to complete the entire project that was approved.

Per the Town Manager, the additional funding amount of \$4 million dollars for the new fire station needs to be approved at Town Meeting and at the ballot box.

Town Manager and The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Overview

- Town Manager Introduction of ARPA and Community Representatives as follows:

Heather Elstrom, Executive Director of the Whitinsville Community Center

Bob Evans, Technical Director, Blackstone Valley Education Hub, Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce

Jeannie Hebert, President & CEO, Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce

Craig Maxim, Director of Program Development and Community Relations at Family Continuity

A motion to approve the proposed 2021 ARPA funds as presented to local not-for-profit agencies and/or to various departments in the Town of Northbridge, MA was made by David Graham, seconded by Steve Gogolinski and unanimously approved.

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Close the Public Hearing per Code of Bylaws

At 8:52PM a motion to approve the closing of the March 16, 2022 Public Hearing was made by Steve Gogolinski, seconded by David Graham and unanimously approved.

Approval of Previous Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve previous Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of March 2, 2022 and March 9, 2022 was made by Steve Gogolinski, seconded by Jim Barron and unanimously approved.

Next Scheduled Finance Committee Meetings

The next scheduled Finance Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at 6:30PM at the Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA 01588. The following will be the presentation topics:

- Town Manager Budget Update
 - o Budget Calendar
 - o Revenues / Expenses
- Town Manager Draft Warrant Update
 - o Capital Funding Plan
- Vote positions on the Spring 2022 Town Meeting Warrant Articles
- Approve prior Finance Committee Meeting Minute(s)
- Other

Adjournment

Since no further business was to be transacted, a motion to adjourn the Finance Committee Meeting at 8:56PM was made by Jim Barron, seconded by Steve Gogolinski and unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ James P. Barron, Clerk, Town of Northbridge Finance Committee

