

Town of Northbridge
Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2023 at 6:30PM

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Committee Members in Attendance: Jim Barron, David Graham, Steve Gogolinski, and Chris Thompson

Finance Committee Member not in Attendance: Plato Adams, Sean Ferry and Chris Pilla

NORTHBRIDGE TOWN CLERK
J. F. FOLVIER

Town of Northbridge Administration and Department Managers in Attendance:

Adam Gaudette, Town Manager, Town of Northbridge, MA

Other: Taxpayer(s) in Attendance:

Barry Gallant, Taxpayer, Town of Northbridge

Finance Committee Meeting:

At 6:30PM the meeting was called to order by Acting Finance Committee Chair Steve Gogolinski.

Town of Northbridge – Public Notice / Meeting:

The Acting Finance Committee Chair, Steve Gogolinski, read the following statement relative to the Town of Northbridge Public Notice / Meeting:

“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 15, 2023 at 6:30PM, 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 draft documents can be found at www.northbridgemass.org. All interested persons are invited to attend.”

A motion to open the Town of Northbridge – Public Notice / Meeting was made by Chris Thompson, seconded by David Graham and unanimously approved.

Castle Hill Property:

Adam Gaudette noted that a loan in the amount of \$1.2 million for the Castle Hill Farm property will be borrowed and paid down over a 15 year time frame at an anticipated interest rate of 3.75%.

Fire Department Budget:

A question / comment were made by Barry Gallant, Northbridge taxpayer.

The question / comment related to mutual aid being supplied to Sutton and Grafton whose towns have a third party / private ambulance service. Northbridge, Sutton and Grafton will provide Mutual Aid to each other with ambulance and fire coverage when needed, etc.

Mutual aid currently works efficiently, and towns are not able to pick and choose which calls to answer outside of their own town.

The town manager is researching the disposition of the old Fire Station property. (i.e. Will the property revert back to the shop?).

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Police Department Budget:

A question / comment were made by Barry Gallant, Northbridge taxpayer. The question / comment related to the purchase of two motorcycles for the town of Northbridge and the possibility of only purchasing one motorcycle this year and another in a future year.

An additional question / comment were made by Barry Gallant, Northbridge taxpayer. The question / comment related to the Police Department leaving Civil Service any associated / additional costs for tests as well as agility tests, etc. Per the Town Manager, Adam Gaudette, the town does not incur any costs for promotion and/or testing.

Overall Town Budget:

A question / comment were raised by Barry Gallant, Town of Northbridge Taxpayer. The question / comments related to the proceeds from the sale of town owned property. Per the town Manager, Adam Gaudette, proceeds for the sale of town owned property will go toward capital.

It was also noted by the Town Manager, Adam Gaudette that there are fixed type costs to maintain town owned properties, especially those that are and/or will be empty. Costs to maintain the buildings include but are not limited to heat, electric as well as property insurance.

Town of Northbridge – Public Notice - Adjournment

At 7:20PM, a motion to close the Town of Northbridge – Public Notice / Meeting was made by Chris Thompson, seconded by David Graham and unanimously approved.

Overall Town Budget

Currently, based on available projections, additional revenues in the amount of \$1,048,680 are available to the Town.

Additional Budget Requests totaled \$1,048,680 as follows:

BVT	\$ 12,903
Trade School Increase	\$ 0.00
Retirement System	\$ 78,939
Insurance Liab / Workers Comp	\$ 160,816
NPS Budget	\$ 512,600
General Govt Budgets	\$ 283,422

TOTAL ADDITIONAL COSTS: \$1,048,680

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BUDGET SUMMARY:

Northbridge Public Schools funding of \$512,600 matches with available revenues. Total School Funding represents 50% of the Total Budget.

Debt Service to be adjusted at the Fall Annual Town Meeting prior to setting the FY2024 Tax Rate. Currently bidding General Liability Insurance – anticipate reduction to counterbalance anticipated Health Insurance Premium increase. Total Fixed Costs represent 23% of the Total Budget.

Town Manager Budget proposes an additional \$283,422 for General Government over FY2023, which includes \$20,000 Tax Title Expenses shift, \$37,000 MUNIS upgrade (Town and School), and the settlement costs from removing the Town from Civil Service (Police Department, Personnel Costs). General Government spending represents 27% of the Total Budget.

Adjournment

Since no further business was to be transacted, a motion to adjourn the Finance Committee Meeting at 7:27PM was made by Chris Thompson, seconded by David Graham and unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

