

Town of Northbridge
Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2021 at 6:30PM via Zoom

RECEIVED

22 MAR -4 AM 10:29

Committee Members in Attendance: Plato Adams, Jim Barron, Robert Dearborn, Steve Gogolinski, David Graham and Chris Pilla

Finance Committee Member(s) not in Attendance: None

NORTHBRIDGE TOWN CLERK
LINDA B. ZYWIEN

Town of Northbridge Administration in Attendance:

Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick, Superintendent of Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District (BVT)

Jeff T. Koopman, School Committee Member Representing the Town of Northbridge, MA

Other Attendees:

None

Finance Committee Meeting

Per Governor Baker's Order as noted below, the zoom meeting was called to order by Plato Adams of the Finance Committee at 6:31 PM:

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order concerning imposition on strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, meetings of the Northbridge Finance Committee will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided for in the Order.

The following topics were discussed / presented by Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick, Superintendent of Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District (BVT) and Jeff Koopman, School Committee Member Representing the Town of Northbridge, MA as follows:

Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District (BVT) Schools Budget FY 2022

Focus for the FY22 Budget:

- Enrollment at BVT for the Town of Northbridge totaled 169 with a total assessment of \$ 2,003,079.
- Total expenditures represent an increase of 3.10% over the FY 2021 budget.
- Total member assessments sustained a 4.41% increase over prior year which is driven by a 3.62% escalation in state mandated minimum contributions.
- Of the 3.10% expenditure increase, 95% is attributed to wages, health insurance and transportation.
- The District works diligently to cultivate external partnerships, revenue sources and operational efficiencies that maintain facilities, enhance curriculum, and support college and career readiness.

Town of Northbridge
Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2021 at 6:30PM via Zoom

Public Meeting (per Code of Bylaws) - Open:

At 7:10PM a motion to open the Public Meeting / Hearing was made by Steve Gogolinski, seconded by David Graham and unanimously approved.

The following information was discussed by the Town Manager, Adam Gaudette:

Capital Plan

The Town Manager gave an overview / discussion of the five year capital plan as noted below:

Also, see below for additional Capital Expenditures for the next fiscal year:

- \$10,000,000 for Design and Construction of the New Fire Department Headquarters
- \$354,577 for Projects in the High School and Middle School as follows:
 - o \$199,577 for LED Project split among the High School and Middle School
 - o \$125,000 for the removal of Portable Classrooms
 - o \$30,000 for Security Cameras split among the High School and Middle School
- \$296,232 for various projects to be overseen by the DPW, with \$200,00 to be used for the Pavement Maintenance Program
- \$100,000 for Linwood Basketball Courts Upgrade – Second Round

Spring Annual Town Meeting (SATM) Warrant Articles

There are currently 22 Spring Annual Town Meeting (SATM) Warrant Articles.

The Finance Committee will be sponsoring the following Warrant Articles:

ARTICLE 3 (Finance Committee)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds in the Treasury and/or transfer from the Health and Insurance Stabilization Fund such sums of money, not to exceed \$49,141,891, to defray the necessary and usual expenses of the several departments of the Town for FY 2022, beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022 or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 22 (Finance Committee)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or to transfer from the undesignated fund balance (free cash), a sum of money to the Stabilization Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

Calendar

The Spring Annual Town Meeting calendar was reviewed by the Town Manager, Adam Gaudette, with the Finance Committee. In particular, the meeting dates that various Town Departments and Other Groups (e.g. BVT, etc.) will present their budget materials were reviewed / discussed.

Town of Northbridge
Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2021 at 6:30PM via Zoom

Stabilization Fund

It was recommended by the Town Manager that for FY 2022; \$100,000 will be the amount being proposed to be added to the Stabilization Fund.

Public Meeting (Per Code of Bylaws) – Closure

At 7:20PM a motion to close the Public Meeting / Hearing was made by David Graham, seconded by Steve Gogolinski and unanimously approved.

Next Scheduled Finance Committee Meetings

It was noted by the Town Manager that the Finance Committee will post a meeting at 6:30 on May 4, 2021, just prior to the 2021 Spring Annual Town Meeting (SATM). The SATM is scheduled to begin at 7:00PM.

During the next scheduled zoom meeting of the Finance Committee at 6:30PM, dated Wednesday, March 31, 2021, the following will be the presentation topics:

- Approve prior Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
- Review SATM Warrant Articles and FY 2022 Budget
- The Finance Committee to Vote Their Positions on the Spring Annual Town Meeting (SATM) Warrant Articles
- Other Business

Approval of Previous Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, March 10, 2021, was made by Chris Pilla, seconded by Steve Gogolinski and unanimously approved.

Adjournment

Since no further business was to be transacted, a motion to adjourn the Finance Committee Meeting at 7:23PM was made by Steve Gogolinski, seconded by Chris Pilla and unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

