

Town of Northbridge
Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
March 23, 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:

Thomas Melia, Chairman, Board of Selectmen

James Athanas, Member, Board of Selectmen

Adam Gaudette, Town Manager - Town of Northbridge, MA

Neil Vaidya, Town Accountant, Town of Northbridge, MA

Glenn King, Chairman, Community Preservation Committee

Other Attendees:

Barry Gallant, Taxpayer, Town of Northbridge

Finance Committee Meeting Called to Order

At 6:34 PM, Plato Adams, Finance Committee Chair for the Town of Northbridge, called the meeting to order.

Vote Positions on the Spring 2022 Town Meeting Warrant Articles

ARTICLE 1:

That the Town vote to transfer from the unexpended appropriated FY 22 funds of the Non-Departmental / Property & Liability Insurance budget item and the Department of Public Works / Sewer Division Enterprise Fund budget – expenses, respectively.

A motion to approve the proposed expenditure of funds as presented was made by David Graham, seconded by Steve Gogolinski and unanimously approved.

NON-DEPARTMENTAL / PROPERTY & LIABILITY INSURANCE:
\$ 13.70 to Cabot Risk Strategies, LLC

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS / SEWER DIVISION:
\$5,925.09 to NEXAMP, INC.
\$5,116.78 to Whitinsville Water Company
\$1,024.59 to Whitinsville Water Company

A motion to approve the proposed expenditure of funds as presented was made by David Graham, seconded by Steve Gogolinski and unanimously approved.

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NORTHBRIDGE TOWN CLERK
LINDA S. ZWEIFEL

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ARTICLE 2:

That the Town vote to amend the votes taken under Article 3 of the 2021 Spring Session of the Annual Town Meeting (May 4, 2021), and under Article 1 of the 2021 Fall Session of the Annual Town Meeting (October 26, 2021), appropriations and transfers under the Omnibus Budget Article.

TOTAL ARTICLE 2: \$537,968

A motion to approve the proposed expenditure of funds as presented was made by Steve Gogolinski, seconded by David Graham and unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 3:

That the Town vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds in the Treasury and/or transfer from the Health Insurance Stabilization Fund such sums of money, not to exceed \$50,460,922 to defray the necessary and usual expenses of the several departments of the Town for FY 2023, beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023.

A motion to approve the proposed expenditure of funds as presented was made by Steve Gogolinski, seconded by David Graham and unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 4:

That the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,850,118 for expenses and debt service to operate the Sewer Enterprise Operation of the Department of Public Works for FY 2023, said sum to be offset by the sum of \$1,850,118 from betterments and other revenues received by the Sewer Enterprise Fund during Fiscal Year 2023.

A motion to approve the proposed expenditure of funds as presented was made by Jim Barron, seconded by Steve Gogolinski and unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 5:

That the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,724,680 for expenses and debt service to operate the Water Enterprise Operation of the Department of Public Works for FY 2023, said sum to be offset by the sum of \$1,724,680 from revenues received by the Water Enterprise Fund during Fiscal Year 2023.

A motion to approve the proposed expenditure of funds as presented was made by Jim Barron, seconded by Sean Ferry and unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 6:

That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$465,194 and such additional funds as may become available from the Commonwealth's Department of Transportation, Chapter 90 Bond Issue proceeds, to be used by the Department of Public Works for the repair and maintenance of Town roads in conformance with MGL and further that the Town vote to meet said appropriation by borrowing and to authorize the Treasurer/Collector, with approval of the Board of Selectmen, to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor in anticipation of the receipt of said State Aid.

A motion to approve the proposed expenditure of funds as presented was made by Steve Gogolinski, seconded by Jim Barron and unanimously approved.

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ARTICLE 7:

That the Town vote to authorize the Treasurer/Collector to enter into a compensating balance agreement or agreements for FY 2023, pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 53F of the M.G.L.

A motion to approve the proposed expenditure of funds as presented was made by Jim Barron, seconded by Sean Ferry and unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 8:

That the Town vote to set the FY 2023 spending limits for the Town's revolving funds under section 5-113 of the Northbridge Code as follows: Program or Purpose FY 2023 Spending Limit Playgrounds and Recreation \$20,000 Food Health and Safety \$25,000 Compost Site \$10,000.

A motion to approve the proposed expenditure of funds as presented was made by Steve Gogolinski, seconded by Jim Barron and unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 9:

That the Town vote to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$44,373 from the Pine Grove Cemetery Trust to fund operations of the Pine Grove Cemetery for FY 2023 beginning July 1, 2022 and ending on June 30, 2023, said funds to be expended under the direction of the Director of Public Works.

A motion to approve the proposed expenditure of funds as presented was made by Jim Barron, seconded by David Graham and unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 10:

That the Town vote to reserve for future appropriation from the Community Preservation Fund annual revenues, the amounts of money recommended by the Northbridge Community Preservation Committee for community preservation projects and other expenses for the Fiscal Year 2023, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation as follows: Reserves: a) From FY 2023 estimated revenues for Historic Resources Reserve b) From FY 2023 estimated revenues for Community Housing Reserve c) From FY 2023 estimated revenues for Open Space & Recreation Reserve d) From FY 2023 estimated revenues for Budgeted Reserve

A motion to approve the proposed expenditure of funds as presented was made by David Graham, seconded by Steve Gogolinski and unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 11:

That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$10,000 from the Community Preservation Fund reserves to the Northbridge Community Preservation Committee for expenses associated with the implementation of the Community Preservation Act, including but not limited to clerical assistance, office supplies, property surveys, appraisals, attorney fees, and other professional services, recording fees, printing and all other necessary and proper expenses for the Fiscal Year 2023.

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A motion to approve the proposed expenditure of funds as presented was made by David Graham, seconded by Sean Ferry and unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 12:

That the Town vote to appropriate the sum of One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars, (\$150,000) from Community Preservation Funds, (\$73,000 from Open Space and Recreation CPC account and \$77,000 from Undesignated CPC account), such sum to be spent under the direction of the Playground and Recreation Commission for the renovation of the Linwood Basketball complex.

A motion to approve the proposed expenditure of funds as presented was made by David Graham, seconded by Steve Gogolinski and unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 13:

That the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) the sum of \$25,000 to comply with the Immediate Response Action Plan submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection for activities at the Quaker Street Landfill.

A motion to approve the proposed expenditure of funds as presented was made by Jim Barron, seconded by David Graham and unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 14:

That the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from the Pine Grove Cemetery Account 01022010-XXXXXX the sum of \$30,000 for the following cemetery maintenance projects: \$10,000 for Tree and Stump Removal and \$20,000 to make Cemetery Road Improvements, said sum to be expended under the direction of the Director of Public Works.

A motion to approve the proposed expenditure of funds as presented was made by David Graham, seconded by Steve Gogolinski and unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 15:

That the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$5,111 from the unexpended balance of the Sewer Department Capital Account (60001512-533000), and appropriate and transfer the sum of \$359,889 from the Retained Earnings Account of the Sewer Enterprise Fund, to be expended under the direction of the Director of Public Works for the following purposes: the sum of \$150,000 for the purpose of funding work recommended as a result of the Town's Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP) and infiltration & inflow reports for the multi-year program to make physical improvements to the Town's sewer collection system, including the sealing/replacement of leaking manhole structures and relining/replacement of deficient/cracked/broken sewer lines; the sum of \$30,000 for the purpose of undertaking a Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) facilities upgrade study; the sum of \$35,000 to purchase a utility pick-up truck; and the sum of \$150,000 to upgrade the WWTP SCADA system.

A motion to approve the proposed expenditure of funds as presented was made by Jim Barron, seconded by Sean Ferry and unanimously approved.

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ARTICLE 16:

That the Town vote to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$696,375 from the Retained Earnings Account of the Water Enterprise Fund, for the purpose of financing water infrastructure repairs, including the replacement of water mains, within the streets of Linwood Avenue, Court Street, and Edgemere Avenue.

A motion to approve the proposed expenditure of funds as presented was made by Jim Barron, seconded by David Graham and unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 17:

That the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from the Town Building Maintenance Fund, established pursuant to Chapter 438 of the Acts of 2012, for maintenance of Town-owned buildings and facilities in Fiscal Year 2023, the following sums of money: \$35,000 for the Town's Green Communities Energy Efficiency Projects Application; and \$10,000 to Replace the Entrance Heating Unit at the Town Hall.

A motion to approve the proposed expenditure of funds as presented was made by David Graham, seconded by Steve Gogolinski and unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 18:

That the Town vote to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$253,447 from the Town Building-Maintenance Fund, established pursuant to Chapter 438 of the Acts of 2012, for maintenance of Town-owned buildings and facilities in Fiscal year 2023, for the following purposes: \$52,519 for updating security cameras at the Middle School and High School; \$81,160 for replacing the intercom and clock system at the High School; \$119,768 for upgrading the network switches at the Middle School and High School; and to transfer the following unexpended amounts from prior year appropriations: \$17,109 from FY 2018 Plaster and Sound Systems at the Middle School account 01021804-XXXXXX for the purpose of updating security cameras at the Middle School and High School, and the amount of \$49,920 from FY 2022 Northbridge Elementary School Modular Classroom Demolition account 01022219-585831 for the purpose of replacing the cafeteria tables at the Middle School, for a total of \$67,029.

A motion to approve the proposed expenditure of funds as presented was made by David Graham, seconded by Jim Barron and unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 19:

That the Town vote to fund the capital projects shown below by appropriating and transferring the total sum of \$1,251,313 from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) as follows:

Project Title	Department	Amount	Master Plan Study	Planning Board	\$ 65,000
Northbridge Elementary School Reuse Study – Add'l Funds	BPCC	\$ 50,000	Sidewalk Maintenance	Public Works	\$ 25,000
Pavement Maintenance	Public Works	\$200,000	Upton Town Line Guardrail	Public Works	\$ 3,489
Field Mower	Public Works	\$ 45,000	Heavy Duty Container	Public Works	\$ 12,000
2-Ton Asphalt Recycler & Hot Box Trailer	Public Works	\$ 40,000	Complete Streets Grant Match	Public Works	\$264,000
Headquarters UST – Phase 1	Fire Department	\$ 5,000	Replace Breathing Apparatus	Fire Department	\$160,000
Fire Department Turn-Out Gear	Fire Department	\$ 70,000	Fire Department Pick-Up Truck	Fire Department	\$ 80,000
Linwood Playground Basketball Court Upgrades	Parks & Recreation	\$200,000	Vital Records Preservation Project	Town Clerk	\$ 8,625
Lasell Field Driveway Curbing	Public Works/NMS	\$ 15,532	TOTAL:		\$1,243,646

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ARTICLE 19 - Continued

A motion to approve the proposed expenditure of funds as presented was made by David Graham, seconded by Steve Gogolinski and unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 20:

That the Town vote to appropriate and transfer the following unexpended sums from appropriations of prior years for the purposes set forth below: \$9,041.75 from March 2006 Fire Station Site Testing account 01020608-530300; \$81,681 from FY2014 BPCC Engineering & Architectural Studies account 01021319-530300; \$7,000 from FY2020 Fire Station Feasibility account 01022017-530000; \$29,325.01 from FY2018 Building Maintenance Projects account 01021812-5XXXXX; \$10,000 from FY 2020 Town Hall Annex Slate Roof Repairs account 01022018-585324; \$4,500 from FY2020 Town Hall Slate Roof Evaluations account 01022018-585310; \$5,256.55 from FY2021 Town Hall First Floor Carpeting account 01022116-585330; \$4,077 from FY2021 DPW Pick-Up Truck with Plow account 01022116-585017; \$480 from FY2022 Northbridge Elementary School Modular Classroom Demolition account 01022219-585831; \$7.36 from FY2019 Northbridge Schools Zero-Turn Mower account 01021919-585016; \$1,226 from FY2020 2 Floor Burnishers account 01022018-585327; and \$6,249.92 from FY2018 Plaster and Sound Systems at Northbridge Middle School account 01021804-XXXXXX; for a total of \$158,844.59 as follows:

Project Title	Department	Amount	Upton Town Line
Guardrail	Public Works	\$ 18,844.59	
Public Gas Conversion (Library)	Public Works/Library	\$ 35,000.00	
Public Sewer Conversion (Police Station)	Public Works/Police	\$ 60,000.00	
Town Hall Electronic Sign Board	Public Works	\$ 45,000.00	
			TOTAL: \$158,844.59

A motion to approve the proposed expenditure of funds as presented was made by David Graham, seconded by Steve Gogolinski. The vote was 3-1 in favor of the proposed article with Steve Gogolinski not supporting the Article and in particular the expenditure of \$45,000 for an Electronic Sign Board.

ARTICLE 21:

That the Town vote to appropriate a sum of money for the purpose of financing the design and construction of a new Fire Station at 1681 Providence Road, including design services, permitting, and site improvements, to supplement the appropriation voted under Article 22 of the warrant for the 2020 Spring Annual Town Meeting, said sum to be expended under the direction of the Building, Planning and Construction Committee, and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer/Collector, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, be authorized to borrow said sum under M.G.L. Chapter 44, section 7, as amended, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; and to authorize the Building, Planning and Construction Committee to take any action necessary to carry out this construction and renovation project provided, however, that no borrowing shall be made nor debt incurred hereunder unless and until the Town first votes to exempt from the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 59, Section 21C (Proposition 2½, so-called), the amounts required to pay the principal and interest of said borrowing and debt.

A motion to approve the proposed expenditure of funds in the article not to exceed \$4,300,000 as presented was made by Jim Barron, seconded by Steve Gogolinski and unanimously approved.

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ARTICLE 22:

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.

The Finance Committee did not vote on this article as there was not enough data available to make an informed decision on the proposed article.

The Finance Committee will review / discuss / vote on the article at the next Finance Committee Meeting.

Prior Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the 3/16/2022 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes as presented was made by Steve Gogolinski, seconded by David Graham and unanimously approved.

Next Scheduled Finance Committee Meetings

The next scheduled Finance Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 3, 2022 at 6:30PM at the Northbridge Middle School, 171 Linwood Avenue, Whitinsville 01588.

The following will be the presentation topics:

- Vote the remaining positions on the Spring 2022 Town Meeting Warrant Articles
- Other

Adjournment

Since no further business was to be transacted, a motion to adjourn the Finance Committee Meeting at 7:18PM was made by David Graham, seconded by Steve Gogolinski and unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

