

## Oakham, MA. Finance Committee (FinCom) 10/11/23 Meeting Minutes

FinCom Members Corey Packard, Steve Dollinger, and Alan Flagg are in attendance. The meeting is called to order at 5:58pm

There are no new public inquiries or comments.

Correspondence received from BOS has asked for feedback on how to spend ARPA funds. FinCom has no immediate ARPA fund needs, however the town is lacking in technology, both hardware and software. Creating a dynamic data sharing database would be a very valuable use of ARPA funds. Corey Packard comments during the technology discussion he has been in contact with Susanne Shays to transition FinCom data management to Corey.

### New Business:

Town of Oakham FY24 Budget overall is in good shape. The Police dept is running well ahead of pro-rata. FY24 part time salary budget is \$26,000 and they have already spent. The Chief had committed himself to personally covering the PT shifts himself once he went FT and reduced the PT hours to the budgeted amount. We will ask the BOS to address this item. There is an unbudgeted payment of \$3,714 QRSD for a school bond charge that we didn't budget for. We will investigate this item. The council on aging appears to be miscoding payment to the COA Director. Will ask Accountant to correct.

BOS Chair responded to the draft FY2025 budget calendar that he agrees with the timeline except the BOS would like to have the annual town meeting mid to late May versus June. Question if the QRSD budget will be completed by April 30<sup>th</sup> as that was last year's deadline. This may impact the date by which we can complete the budget for the ATM.

We agree FinCom will provide BOS administrator with 3 years of budget history and YTD FY24 for distribution to various town departments with a recommendation that FY25 budget planning considers the historical trend.

### Old Business.

The library continues to review options for repair or replacement of their well. They have looked at trenches from other area wells, a new well and repairing the existing well. BOS has set aside \$6,000 in ARPA funds but that doesn't look sufficient. We may be asked to partially fund from FinCom reserve fund. Or the Library trustees may end up funding the repair/replacement. Also, some concern that they may be classified as a public water supply (PWS) and must then initiate a testing program which may be expensive at \$3,500+ per year.

BOS provided an email update on the Fire Truck purchase. All is on schedule. The Town Collector will be on the BOS agenda on the 30<sup>th</sup> to sign the final paperwork. Discussion was held on the question of the highway department possibly needing new trucks. It appears that we have sufficient highway equipment, but this is something the BOS is looking into currently.

We discuss the fact that FinCom has on numerous occasions advised the BOS that we are concerned that the highway department superintendent is putting the town at risk by not tracking personal use of the town vehicle he drives. Highway reports directly to the BOS and the FinCom members believe we have made a point of informing the BOS of the risk and it is now up to the BOS to implement a policy change. Recent correspondence from the BOS indicates that are reviewing the policy.

We remain short two members on the FinCom and all are encouraged to help solicit new members.

Motion to approve 9/13/23 meeting minutes approved.

Next meeting tentatively scheduled for 11/1/23 unless a need to meet sooner occurs.

Meeting adjourned at 6:41pm.