

**Oakham, MA. Finance Committee (FinCom) Meeting**  
**4/14/2021 Meeting Minutes**

FinCom Chair Paul Rochette called the meeting to order at 630 pm. Members Steve Dollinger, Clare Hendra and Alan Flagg are in attendance. Oakham BOS members Lucy Tesnau, Don Haapakoski, and Brad Taylor attend along with the Tom Wilson Town Accountant and Walter Nutter School Committee.

Updated revenue sheets are passed out by Clare. This is reviewed. She has adjusted two of the Articles to move all the ambulance funds to the articles. Tom comments this is ok but not necessary as if not used it would go to free cash. We will also need to close out the Ambulance Reserve.

Town Accountant then reviews the pending software midgrade.

The town will be converting to a Springbrook software package. This same company also owns the current software (Softwrite) so they have knowledge in both data sets. Cost is 15,500 for the Town Accountant to convert and \$24,000 for the Treasurer to convert. The Town has secured a \$50,000 grant to pay for this upgrade. Package Includes the software subscription, 120 hours training for Tom and same for treasurer. Timing. Due to timing at the end of the fiscal year Tom will need to maintain both software packages for the FY2022 budget which will need to be increased to \$12,700 for FY2022 then it will drop to \$9,000 annually. Tom reviews the timing and plans for data conversion, migration, training, system backup and integrity checks. FinCom agrees it sounds like a solid plan and looks forward to the results and then having read only access to the data. We then review the rest of the Town Accountants budget and update data in the master file.

FinCom then discusses the status of the Education budget with Oakham School Board member Walter Nutter. Current planned Quabbin School Assessment is \$2,514,796 and total requested education budget is \$2,673,435 but Walter states these values will continue to change. Final numbers will not be available until the end of April. Walter provides a number of updates which are then discussed by the FinCom. He is hearing from Boston that we will not get the anticipated \$57,000 in ESSER funds that we had built into the current budget. He thinks regional transportation will be the same as last year but busing will be less than last year. One significant issue is the continued decline in student enrollment. This concern leads to another discussion on the need to consolidate schools within the Quabbin school district. FinCom is in support of school consolidation. Additional funds will be in a fall package ~\$1.5MM that he is hearing will be limited to specific items. He is pretty sure rural aid will come back, Oakham share of capital assessment was \$29,900 if rural aid comes through. We have 10 students in the Pathfinder school programs. This has been as high as 15 in the past. We discuss the request for a mobile heated cabinet for use at the Oakham middle school. This will be an Article on the Warrant.

We then conduct a line-by-line review of each FinCom proposed Article and agree to some language and value changes. A motion is made and approved on the Articles as finalized this evening. Paul asks BOS members in attendance if they have any additional topics to discuss. They do not. We have no new public inquiries. FinCom approves minutes from the 4/7/21 meeting and we adjourn at 8:33pm