10/5/2022 FinCom Minutes-DRAFT

Attending:

* Alan Flagg-Chair
* Susanne Shays-Recorder
* Stephen Dollinger (via phone)
* Meeting called to order at 6:02pm
* No mail correspondences or inquiries for FinCom to review
* FY2023 Budget to Actual
  + Aug and Sep 2022 Budget to Actual reports are not available yet per Town Accountant
* FY2024 Budget Prep
  + Will not have YTD Nov 2022 Budget to Actual until mid-December
  + State has guidelines indicating 5 months of history should be presented
  + BoS has sent early in the past
  + Communication and good direction necessary between BoS, FinCom, and Dept Heads
  + FinCom would like a Zoom with Town Accountant re: budget prep and timing of reports
* BoS Meetings
  + 9/14
    - HMO Blue is as is
    - Dental added $102/mo./person or a $2,290 increase for FY2024
    - Funding FT employees after they retire was discussed
      * Tabled and to be considered in future-$365/mo./FT
    - FinCom wonders how many FT employees there are
    - FinCom wonders if insurance rates will be beneficial in the long-term vs Quabbin’s
  + 9/19
    - HVAC leaking in Highway and Fire building
      * There is a duct work issue as well
  + 9/30
    - Wage study preliminary discussed
      * Will be presented in the future
    - FinCom discusses wages and fiduciary responsibility to pay fairly and legally
      * Can town afford merit and COLA raises
      * Would taxes need to be raised
  + 10/4
    - Director of Library position to be reviewed for salary and FT consideration
    - Fire Chief will contact FinCom regarding a capital plan to replace the 1999 truck
      * New price minimum of $575k-$650k
    - National Grid electric bill extremely high
      * Could be due to HVAC issue
      * Will consider electricity reduction by lighting changes
    - BoS to meet with school district regarding outside repairs more than the $5k regional contribution
    - Police Chief will apply for Bridge reimbursement grant for $15k
* Old and New Business
  + School Committee meetings are available on YouTube
  + FinCom meetings to be online eventually
  + Cable/Internet Fund $19,167
    - Found and in separate account
    - New equipment to be purchased TBD
* BoS meetings FinCom attendance
  + 10/17 Alan
  + 11/1 Stephen
* Motion to accept prior meeting minutes-all in favor
* Next meeting 10/19 6:00pm
* Meeting adjourned 7:07pm