



Finance Committee
Regular Meeting
02/23/21

- I. Call to Order
 - 1. Roll Call
- II. Appointments
 - A. Board of Health

Christine Berube, Board of Health Member. Deb Ketchen, Health Agent. Jason Sargent, Board of Health Member.

Salary, reinstate 5 hours for Administrative Assistant. Very busy with COVID tracing for Merrimac, which includes a questionnaire and screening- a lot of data entry and calling. A grant has been helping offset some of the cost. The previous hours had been combined with Town Hall hours and they were taken back by the Board of Health. How many septic systems are in Town? What are the comparable Town's admin and agent hours. BOH unable to answer those questions. Town Nurses hours are split between Board of Health and Council on Aging. What tasks is the Nurse doing under the Board of Health? None. Why hasn't the Nurse done any of the contact tracing? Due to her technical inabilities she is unable to complete the work in MAVEN. There is an additional nurse paid through the COVID grant who has been doing tracking. At what point did the Board of Health stop using the Nurses services? No clear answer. The Board of Health is budgeting as the Town Nurse is unable to assist with any hours within the current Board of Health.

Expenses, the Health Agent's phone line has been added into the Town's line item budget. Small increase in due's and business travels.

B. Commission on Disabilities

Chris Gaudet, Chairperson Commission on Disabilities

Asking for a Special Article for \$45,000 for sidewalk compliance. Most of the sidewalk are 50+ years old and do not meet ADA Compliance. The intent of the commission on Disabilities is to bring awareness to these issues. According to a pavement management study that was done, at the approximate cost per square foot currently it is about \$800,000 total to get the whole Town into compliance. Currently the COD is participating in a Transition Plan which will be submitted to the State in the fall. This will not necessarily mean fines, but will show the state the deficiencies and our plan to begin fixing it.

C. Open Discussion & Finance Director Recommendation

Special articles coming up: Retirement of multiple employees, the landfill, FEMA match. They are due March 4th.

Capital expenses coming up: A fire truck, a DPW truck.

Schools: Don't know yet, the Selectmen voted to use the COVID money to reduce some of that expense. The state formula hit Merrimac hard this year. The debt payment for the school will also increase.

Finance Directors Recommendations:

Revenue, new growth is very hard to get out of the assessors, going to go in at \$150,000. Motor vehicle excise tax is estimated at \$1,050,000. \$320,000 in ambulance after switching over to a new company. Trash actuals this year were trending down. Increase in fines and forfeitures, were unable to bill at the end of the year because of COVID and we'll have more to bill this year.

Expenses, Town Clerk Assistant an increase in 10 hours- to be spread during busier times like elections. A new police officer starting in January, hopefully by then with new officers trained there can be a look at reduction in

overtime. EMT wages reduction to 2% for cost of living like everyone else. Whittier Tech less students budget decrease at \$77,000 and use to offset the PRSD budget. Highway removing additional laborer, going to meet with Cemetery next week to take the laborer out fo the cemetery and into highway to give the highway Department the ability to manage that through the winter. Board of Health no new hours. Health insurance one month free this year, at \$52,000.

Reserve fund only has \$40,000.