

Town of Williamsburg

Finance Committee Minutes

Held at Town Hall

30 March 2023

Finance Committee Members Present: Paul Wetzel, Julia Peters, Eric Cerreta (arrived 6:15), Richard Kisloski, Melissa Zawadzki, Gordon Allen, Lisa Sheehy, Charles Dudek

Finance Committee Members Absent: Gil Loud

Town Administrator, Nick Caccamo

Melissa Wilson, Director, Senior Center

Town Highway Supervisor, Dan Banister

Town Highway Asst. Supervisor, Brian Osetek

Stacey Jenkins, Principal Williamsburg Elementary School

Lauren Hotz, Principal Hampshire Regional High School

Diana Bonneville, Superintendent of Hampshire Regional School District

The meeting was called to order by P. Wetzel at 6:00 p.m.

Senior Center director Melissa Wilson addressed the Committee stating that the Center is fully operational because of capable and hard-working staff that does a wonderful job. There are four paid staff and about 30 volunteers. M. Wilson requested a \$2.00/hour wage increase for all staff (total staff hours/week = 79), which is a \$8,216 annual increase in Center wages. M. Wilson mentioned that it is hard to recruit new staff.

Funding requests for future projects to the Senior Center include a second bathroom on the first floor.

Classes at the Senior Center range from “Bones & Balance” and dance to providing rides and Veterans outreach. About 150 people are served each week by the Center.

The Committee also heard from the Highway Supervisor Dan Banister. He requested a \$1 dollar/hour raise above any cost-of-living increase. In Dan’s mind such a raise is necessary to retain workers in the department. Expenses have increased in many areas this year, including parts, fuel, snow removal and tree trimming/cleanup. D. Banister also requested three capital items:

1. Tractor (4WD) with loader -- ~\$60,000
2. Truck with plow/sander -- ~\$50,000
3. Single axel dump truck/sander -- \$120,000

American Rescue Plan Act funds could be used to purchase some or all of these items. However, the Select Board has prioritized building maintenance projects over vehicle purchases.

Williamsburg Elementary Principal Stacy Jenkins stated that the local school preliminary assessment was reported as \$2,406,767 an increase of \$57,686 over last year. This assessment included \$90,000 from the school choice fund. This increase was primarily the result of contractual salary increases and increases in the cost of electricity (↑ \$20,000). However, propane use decreased.

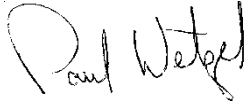
Hampshire Regional Principal Lauren Hotz said that the FY24 regional school assessment for Williamsburg was \$1,690,092 an increase of \$159,260 (9.42%) over last year. It was noted that the increase (66.5%) is from increases special education costs, followed by cost increases in utilities (17%).

Minutes from the meeting held 23 March 2023 were reviewed. M. Zawadzki moved to approve the minutes with amendments; J. Peters seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The next Finance Committee meeting will be held 6 April 2023 at 6:00 at the Town offices.

There being no further business before the Committee, C. Dudek moved to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by E. Cerreta. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Wetzel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "P".

Paul R. Wetzel