

# Town of Williamsburg

## Finance Committee Minutes

Town Hall

13 April 2023

Finance Committee Members Present: Paul Wetzel, Julia Peters, Richard Kisloski, Melissa Zawadzki, Charles Dudek, Eric Cerreta, Gordon Allen

Finance Committee Members Absent: Gil Loud, Lisa Sheehy

Town Administrator, Nick Caccamo

Library Director, Beverly Bullock

Chair, Library Board of Trustees, Charlotte Meryman

Vice Chair, Library Board of Trustees, Joan Coryat

Treasurer, Library Board of Trustees, Ken Borden

The meeting was called to order by P. Wetzel at 6:09 p.m.

The Meekins Library staff and Board met with the FC. The library requested a \$14,424 (12.9%) increase in their salaries and wages line and a \$2,000 (66.7%) increase in their Materials/Books line. C. Meryman stated that the library has trouble recruiting and retaining employees. The Board had trouble finding a bookkeeper. The Committee was presented with various staff salary comparisons from surrounding towns of 50,000 people or less. Several FC members felt that staff comparisons with Towns that have 20 times greater population than Williamsburg is not a useful comparison.

C. Meryman described the overall budget situation and resident use of the library—

- The Library Board of Trustees raises more than \$20,000 each year to fully fund the library.
- The library is required by the State to spend 19.5% of the Town appropriation to the library (now \$38,000) on anything used by patrons. This amount rose 2% since the Elementary school library program was transferred to the library.
- Besides Williamsburg, the Williamsburg library is used by residents of Chesterfield, Goshen, Leeds, and Ashfield. There are 3500 regular borrowers and 2100 Williamsburg patrons.
- Between 2019 and the present the number of patrons served by the library ranged from 47,000 to 62,000.
- The library relies on ~30 volunteers to carry out their daily operations.

B. Bullock stated that capital requests for the library include replacement of building gutters (the Town may use Federal ARPA funds for that project). She also said that an energy audit will be done on the library building, which may result in some capital projects.

N. Caccamo reviewed the General Government portion of the budget, noting that the overall portion of that budget decreased 1.1% from last year. He also reviewed the overall budget with the Committee. Free cash and stabilization funds have still not been certified by the State. There is no formal budget from Smith Vocational High School, which could greatly change the budget.

Without salary increases, the budget is \$118,961 less than the FY24 tax levy limit. Currently, the excluded Town debt = \$589,350 (school & safety complex). Salary increases requests = \$70,778. A 1% increase in current salary lines = \$11,760. N. Caccamo noted that if the debt was not excluded, then the budget would be \$470,389 greater than the tax levy limit. He also noted that taxpayers will still be responsible for paying for the debt, even if excluded.

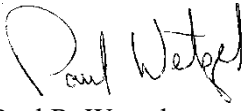
N. Caccamo reminded the Committee that Town meeting is 5 June, 2023 and that the meeting warrant must be approved by 25 May.

Minutes from the meeting held 6 April 2023 were reviewed. C. Dudek moved to approve the minutes as written; D. Kisloski seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority; E. Cerreta and G. Allen abstained.

The next Finance Committee meeting will be held 20 April 2023 at 6:00 at the Town offices.

There being no further business before the Committee, E. Cerreta moved to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by C. Dudek. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Wetzel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul R. Wetzel