

Town of Lunenburg

Finance Committee:

Terri Burchfield, Chairman
Michelle Walton, Vice-Chairman
Peter Beardmore, Secretary
John Henshaw
Jay Simeone
David Passios



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Lunenburg Finance Committee October 24, 2019 Meeting

Location: Town Hall
Present: Terri Burchfield, John Henshaw, Jay Simeone, Michelle Walton, Peter Beardmore
Absent: Dave Passios

1. Call to Order

- Terri Burchfield, Chair called the meeting to order at 7pm. This meeting is being recorded for broadcast on the Lunenburg Public Access channel.
- Terri Burchfield informed the committee that there may be a need to discuss the Police Union contract on November 7th and inquired if the members would be available. All present members indicated that they would be available
- Terri Burchfield reminded members and the public of the informational symposium at 6:30 PM on October 29th.
- Terri Burchfield confirmed that all members, with the exception of Peter Beardmore, would be available for the special town meeting on November 12th.

2. Public Comment

- Peter Beardmore commented that the regular schedule only includes two regular meetings in the current calendar year and expressed concern that the committee would be able to make progress on informal discussions with department heads prior to budget season as well as make progress on committee goals, particularly arriving at definitions relating to spending levels. Terri Burchfield reported that she has heard back from four departments and will schedule those, as well as follow up with departments that she hasn't connected with.

3. Warrant Articles for Special Town Meeting

- Heather Lemieux, Town Manager, reported that the proposed article relating the street lights had been removed due to the need for additional research.
- Peter Beardmore re-raised discussion relating to the liquor license articles. John Henshaw outlined some ambiguity as to what level of financial effect constitutes financial impact and would trigger a Finance Committee position, and as to whether a recommendation of the finance committee relating to the health of a particular business may establish precedence without having been considered as policy. Terri Burchfield commented that her view of the role of the Finance Committee is to take positions on budgets before us. Terri Burchfield also commented that she wants to follow-up on economic development with the Planning Board. The committee took no additional action on the articles.
- The town manager reported that the Board of Selectmen held a hearing on Butterfly Lane and accepted the layout. Terri Burchfield asked if the town has a road acceptance policy? The town manager reported that the BOS has a process, but town meeting voters are under no obligation to accept the road. Terri Burchfield emphasized that it is important for both the Finance Committee and Town Meeting to understand the financial impact of accepting a road. The Town Manager reported that the cost of maintaining Butterfly Road could reach \$2200 annually. The committee took no additional action.
- John Henshaw commented that the discussions on the warrant articles had gone well and been informative.

4. Department and Committee Reports

- Peter Beardmore reported that the School Committee met on September 16th. MCAS scores were reported by the Superintendent and the Principals. Middle and High Schools are doing well, compared to previous scores and like communities. The Elementary School performance relative to like communities is an area of concern. There was also a financial update. The year end report has been submitted. There were also line-item transfers of approximately \$297,000, reconciling salary changes resulting from retirements, new hires, and allocation of specialist employees that cover multiple buildings.
- Terri Burchfield reported that the Ham and Beans supper occurred the prior weekend and went-off well.
- Michelle Walton announced that she and Dave Passios will be attending the Association of Town Finance Committees meeting on Saturday at Bridgewater State University.

5. Town Manager / Town Accountant

- The Town Accountant reported that Free Cash was certified for \$1,107,694. The Water Enterprise Fund retained earnings were certified: \$53,028. Sewer Enterprise retained earnings were certified: \$1,972,558. Solid Waste Enterprise retained earnings were certified: \$9,476.

6. Minutes

- John Henshaw moved to accept minutes September 26th and October 3rd, seconded Jay Simeone. Approved unanimously.

7. Next Meeting

- October 29, 2019, 6:30 symposium at LMHS auditorium
- November 7th

8. Adjournment

- John Henshaw motioned/ Peter Beardmore seconded; unanimous approval

