**Lenox Finance Committee Meeting Minutes.**

Date: February 16, 2023

Members Present: Kristine Cass (KC), Mindi Morin (MM), Blaise Gregory (BG), Josh Levin (JL)

Guests: Graham Moriarty, (GM) Chris Ketchen (CK), Clarence Fanto (CF)

Absent: David Neubert (DN)

Meeting called to order at 6:02pm

KC kicked off the meeting asking for a motion to approve the minutes from January 17, 2023. BG made a motion to approve and JL 2nd. All approved.

Discussion regarding our upcoming meeting to be scheduled with the school committee and that we will also schedule public works and public safety. KC passed it along to CK to review the budget. We are still waiting on state funding and CK incorporated a 2% until we have a better understanding. CK started with general government and gave a good overview of changes that are up and coming with a retirement. KC asked if we are still considering a building manager, and this is still a consideration. CK also explained the change in treasurer/collector. Continued discussion on an increase in police/fire and paramedics. Also recruiting for a coordinator position that is budgeted in 2023 too. CK mentioned that there might be an increase in board of health by about $2K for an added position that is shared with the three towns.

KC mentioned that she did meet with the library, and she discussed the LLA increase, and changes attributed to additional expenses that have not been on the towns booked and now will be moved to the books but still covered by the LLA. KC asked about the MOA and if there is talk to revisit. CK said there is talk of this as something to look at. KC mentioned that during the meeting it was discussed to hire an additional youth person who can continue to increase and focus on programs. Katie also discussed a budget for recognition as a nice to have. JL asked about the electricity increase. This could have been attributed to renovations up and coming and that would have been the increase reason previously. MM also recapped discussion with health and human services, and they are comfortable with their budget. JL will be meeting with Darlene and will report back. MM recapped discussion with Chamber. With the success of all events the chamber has added, discussion that we may even exceed revenue numbers versus previous years. JL asked about multi-peril package being low for 23 versus previous years and CK walked us through the reasoning.

CK move on to the capital budget and walked us through changes versus LY with one big change being an additional ambulance. The turnaround time is 3 years so we will order this year to receive in 3 years. KC asked if we will also be adding to the supplemental funds and CK explained that we are and where it will be used. Discussion in playground equipment and the skating rink. Discussion to increase the HVAC for the library due to discussion from the group regarding prices that we are seeing. CK wrapped up with overview of levy and potential for a possible change in the school budgets 5.3%.

KC will coordinate our next two meetings.

MM made a motion to approve the annual report, BG 2nd and everyone approved.

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| Department | Type | Person Assigned/Meeting Dates |
| Public Safety | Meeting |  |
| Public Works | Meeting |  |
| School | Meeting |  |
| Library | Touchbase | Kristine- completed |
| Community Center | Touchbase | Josh |
| Chamber | Touchbase | Mindi- completed |
| Health and Human Services | Touchbase | Mindi- completed |
| Enterprise Fund Meeting (water and sewer | Meeting | David, Meeting February 15th |

Meeting adjourned at 6:59pm

Respectively Submitted,

Mindi Morin, Secretary