

Lenox Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: April 22, 2021

Members Present: Joan Bruno (JB), Dave Carpenter (DC), Kristine Cass (KC), Michael Feder (MF), Mindi Morin (MM), Elliott Morss (EM), David Neubert (DN), Andrea Pignatelli (AP)

Guests: Chris Ketchen (CK), Clarence Fanto (CF), David Rimmmler (DR), Veronica Fenton (VF), Robert Vaughn (BV)

Absent: Mark McKenna (MMc)

Meeting called to order at 5:02 PM.

MF expressed concerns about the school budget, primarily that all cuts came out of student programs and that the structure of school costs is overly weighted in compensation (about 85% of total school cost). CK reported that the Select Board has been informed of the Finance Committee's recommendation that the school budget be presented as a separate warrant.

CK reported that the operating budget numbers have been finalized. The funding of capital requests is still to be determined, but CK does not expect funding changes to change the tax burden. The Select Board will have a draft of the warrant at their next meeting, and CK expects it will be ready for us to vote on in two to three weeks.

MF proposed that the Finance Committee's letter this year provide fewer charts and instead focus on the risks to the stability of our tax rate going forward. EM is working on identifying data to support the claims in MF's draft letter. There was a discussion of open meeting requirements regarding how to draft the letter in compliance with open meeting rules.

DN suggested that we switch meeting time to 2pm. MF proposed that each member email their preferred time slots to EM so that EM can identify an appropriate time slot.

Meeting adjourned at 5:36pm.

Respectively Submitted,
Kristine Cass, Secretary