**Lenox Finance Committee Meeting Minutes**

Date: December 2, 2021

Members Present: Dave Carpenter (DC), Kristine Cass (KC), Michael Feder (MF), Mindi Morin (MM), Blaise Gregory (BG)

Guests: Clarence Fanto (CF), Chris Ketchen (CK)

Absent: David Neubert (DN), Andrea Pignatelli (AP)

Meeting called to order at 6:03

KC- Discussion around the Finance Committee bylaws (specific act) issued 1 year later. Some language has wording that is not concise and conflicts with the fact that we have a town manager. Discussion around changing these and the process for us to do so

CK pleased that we are discussing this and agrees with the KC has outlined as a change. The two should be in harmony and they are not, example being the special act versus the bylaw

MF feels there is no conflict, just that the independent body acting on behalf of the town should be changed. He feels this does not grant power it just allows us to ask questions. He feels that we aren’t in the loop with the town’s finances early enough or deep enough to make an impact

DC Outlined that there is no disharmony but needs to be adjusted to add the town manager and items that MF mentioned. He outlined the sections that need to be updated

KC feels that MF’s sentiment is just missing the removal of what should be modified in section 4

DC expressed that the second paragraph in section 4 should be tuned up with MF’s polish and town manager

KC outlined that section 2 needs review, as an example the selectmen appoints with the moderator. Could this be just the moderator. CK reviewed the process of the bylaws

CK explained that a committee has reviewed the special act and that has been finished. Once that is completed, it goes to town meeting as a warrant and is a simple majority vote at this meeting. MF clarified he would want the finalist to be presented for consideration by the select board

KC will review and make edits for us to see at the next meeting

CK said that the 2nd week of April is a good target for a draft

KC reviewed the below edits with changes to MF, DC and BG

MF inquired if someone should be on the assessor’s office as a subcommittee. It was decided that he will work on this to ensure we have an explanation for town meeting. There was further discussion around what should be provided. MF and CK will connect

CK suggested that instead of working with Lisa, that we work with Tom Romeo and team to answer any questions that we nay gave. We ran through key areas that were brought on by 2021 not being a typical year

MF asked that CK arrange a meeting with the assessor’s office. He asked that we go back to what our role is as a finance committee and like the town meeting in other towns, maybe the finance committee should also be on stage

CF clarified that in Richmond and Stockbridge they are there to answer questions as needed at the town meeting

DC explained how it works in GB and that they are there for questions

KC shared that at previous town meetings a member has come up to the podium to address questions as needed. It was also suggested that we reach out to our leads of the departments we are working with

Questions about when we will receive the first draft of the budget and CK mentioned he will receive this on 12/15 (1st draft) and the 1st week of January the select board receives this. Finance Committee will see the budget withing the first week of February. Once received we will meet with our subcommittees.

MM briefed the group on the school committees finance meeting and communicated to the group the work they are doing n their capital improvements plan

MF asked CK about how we can show the town, by department where the taxes go to and is this something that the town can put together.

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| **Member** | **Permanent Building** | **Public Works** | **Genl Govt.** | **Community Center** | **Library** | **School** | **Treas, Acct** | **Chamber** | **Public Safety** |
| DN |   | X | X | X |   |   | X |  |  |
| AP |   |   |   | X | X |   |   | X |  |
| KC | X |   |   |   | X |   |   | X |  |
| DC | X |   |  X |   |   |   |   |  |  |
| MF |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |  | X |
| MM |   | X |   |   |   | X |   |  |  |
| BG |  | **X** |  |  |  | **X** |  |  | X |

Meeting adjourned at 7:09

Respectively Submitted,

Mindi Morin, Interim Secretary