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FINANCE COMMITTEE

TOWN CLERK
ADAMS MASS.

TOWN HALL BUILDING
8 PARK STREET

CLERK

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES, 10/11/18, 6:00 p.m.
ADAMS FREE LIBRARY, 2ND FLOOR MEMORIAL HALL MEETING ROOM**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Burdick at 6:00 p.m. Members Corrigan, Kleiner, Parrott, Smigel, Demastrie, Foster, Lefebvre, Tomkowicz, Cowie, and Lesure were present as well Town Accountant Beverly, Interim Town Administrator Cesan, and Board of Selectmen Chair Duval.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Meeting Minutes for May 22, 2018 were submitted for approval. *Motion made by Member Tomkowicz to approve the minutes for May 22, 2018, second by Member Cowie. Abstention by Members Corrigan and Lesure. Voted in favor were Members Kleiner, Parrott, Smigel, Demastrie, Foster, Lefebvre, Tomkowicz, and Cowie. Motion carried.*

NEW BUSINESS

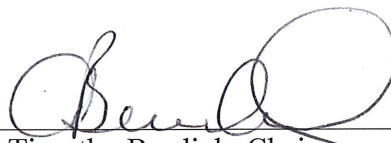
Special Town Meeting Warrant Review and Recommendations: Board of Selectmen Chairman Duval gave a brief overview of the flooding situation and the Declaration of Emergency which allows procedures to fund repairs of the damage. Interim Town Administrator Cesan explained past efforts to create a Hazard Mitigation Plan since Tropical Storm Irene, and the plan expires at the end of the year. Municipal Vulnerabilities Preparedness is preparing for hazards. On September 12th there was a microburst and on September 18th the Town was hit by the remnants of Hurricane Florence. Work is being done with the Board of Selectmen, Emergency Management Director Kleiner, the Town Accountant and the Division of Local Services (DLS). The impacted areas were viewed to identify the extent of the damage, and J. H. Maxymillian produced estimates. The list that was put together for damage costs were astronomical for the roads, infrastructure, and health and safety issues that need to be handled, as well as a study on Southwick Brook to address future issues. A review of the steps taken by the Town Officials to open up deficit spending was made, and it was noted that the Emergency Finance Administration Board was being asked to review the information to approve it being forwarded to Special Town Meeting. It was explained that the Legislative Delegation originally reviewed the information and initially requested \$650,000 but after viewing the damage raised the amount to \$1.9 Million. There was an open forum for the impacted community in which Representative Barrett and a representative from Senator Hinds' Office attended. Information is being offered to citizens regarding what grant opportunities are currently in place to assist. An inquiry was made about the regular cleaning out of flood control chutes and it was noted that twenty foot tall trees are growing inside them in areas. The Glen and East Road damages were not related to the flood control. The Town received a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness action grant for minor items but not dredging as permitting is very complicated. It was pointed out that this is not for just maintenance but engineering and permitting as well. There are a number of other issues to be addressed and limited funding. Brief discussion took place regarding the problem with the culvert at Crotteau Street, which is part of the same area and was quoted at around \$900,000 to fix.

The Complete Streets program will address this. The Davis Street Bridge Replacement is under design, and Glen Road is hoped to be started Monday. A series of sink holes are growing and are truly emergency critical situations. It must still go to DCAM and meet with the Conservation Chair to work on getting everything in proper order. If the state funding does not come through, the Town hopes to see a series of \$500,000 short-term notes, which are easier to pay off. A \$60,000 to \$75,000 Reserve Fund Transfer would keep from having to bond up to twenty years. If bonded, it would be approximately thirty cents on the tax rate. Most of the small debt has been retired, and the Wastewater Treatment Plant, Town Hall, and Police Station are next. Work has been done to explore possible funding through the USDA, MEMA and for grant funds for home owners through Community Development Block Grant. Prior damage in some of the same areas from Tropical Storm Irene was identified. Areas of vulnerability were already identified prior to the flooding events. All areas were approved as an emergency by DLS through Chapter 44, Section 7. Topographical changes from the Solar Field installation on East Road were questioned but it has been inspected. There are a series of retaining ponds that appeared to be functioning. A watershed study will look at the whole system. Climate change was touched on and it was noted that despite Tropical Storm Irene repairs water inundated Lime Street during this weather event. Procurement procedures in an emergency situation were outlined and explained. It was noted that the proposed warrant for Special Town Meeting was to borrow up to \$2.5 Million. A Workshop will be held to inform Town Meeting Members of this information. ***Motion made by Member Corrigan to approve the Warrant Article as written, second by Member Kleiner. Vote: unanimous.***

Adjournment: Motion made by Vice Chairman Cowie to adjourn the meeting, second by Member Parrott. Vote: unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap,
Recording Secretary



Timothy Burdick, Chairman