

Town of Adams Massachusetts 01220-2087

FINANCE COMMITTEE

TOWN HALL BUILDING
8 PARK STREET

Tuesday, April 27, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

FINANCE COMMITTEE Meeting Minutes

RECEIVED-POST
21 MAY 26 PM 3:00
TOWN CLERK
ADAMS MASS.

CALL TO ORDER: On the above date the Finance Committee held a meeting on the first-floor gymnasium of Adams Memorial School at 30 Columbia Street, Adams. The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Finance Committee Chair Burdick. Present from the Finance Committee were Chairman Burdick, Vice Chairman Cowie, Members Butler, Cushenette, Duval, Foster, Johnson, Kline, Kupiec, Melito, Meczywor, Mucci, Nocher and Tomkowicz. Also present were Town Administrator Green, Finance Director Wojcik, Town Clerk Meczywor, Town Clerk Administrative Assistant Wheeler, Treasurer / Tax Collector Rice and Administrative Assistant Dunlap. Present from the Board of Selectmen were Chairman Hoyt, Members Duval and Nowak.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 13, 2020 Minutes, April 15, 2020 Minutes, April 20, 2020 Minutes were presented for approval. Motion made by Member Tomkowicz to approve the April 13, 2021 and April 15, 2021 minutes as presented, second by Member Cushenette. Vote: unanimous. Motion passed.

Motion made by Member Tomkowicz to Table the minutes for April 20, 2021, second by Member Johnson. Vote: unanimous. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF FY2021 BUDGET: *Chairman Burdick* advised that the Board of Selectmen had unanimously voted to approve the budget. He noted he would read through the budget line items and requested that any Members that wished to hold a line for separate vote or discussion to advise him as he went down the list. *Vice Chairman Cowie* inquired about budget transfers at the end of the fiscal year and under what authority it can be done in February, March and April. He noted that he had gotten an updated expense report on May 24th last year from Town Accountant Beverly and asked for same thing this year. Internal departmental transfers were explained and the process, procedures and legality were touched on. Concern was expressed about whether it was the same or different for cities and towns because of the wording in the statute. Budgets held were **Executive:** Selectmen, Town Administrator, Town Counsel, Moderator, and Town Report. **General Government:** Assessor, Treasurer-Collector, Debt Service, Town Clerk, Elections, Registrar of Voters and Codification. **Regional Schools:** Hoosac Valley Regional School District, Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District/McCann. The following budgets were cleared to move forward: **Finance & Technology:** Finance Committee, Reserve Fund, Employee/Retiree Benefits, Accountant, Technology, Property and Liability Insurance. **Community Development:** Community Development, Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Zoning Board, Historical Commission, and Agricultural Commission. **Inspection Services:** Inspection Services, Weights/Measures Inspector, **Public Health:** Board of Health. **Public Safety:** Police Department, Animal Control Officer, Parking Management, Emergency Management, and Forest Warden. **Public Service:** Council on Aging, Veterans Services, Memorial Day Remembrances, and Library. **Public Buildings:** Police Station, Registry of Deeds, Town Hall, Public Buildings/Property Maintenance, Community Center, Adams Memorial Building, and Visitors Center. **Public Works:** Tree Warden/Insect and Pest

Control, Public Works Administration, Department of Public Works, Highways, Snow & Ice Control, Flood Control, DPW Garage/Equipment Maintenance, Transfer Station, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Wastewater Collection, Cemeteries, Parks & Grounds, and Celebrations – Seasonal. *Motion made by Member Tomkowicz to approve all budgets not held as read aloud, second by Member Johnson. Voted in favor were Chairman Burdick, Members Butler, Cushenette, Duval, Foster, Johnson, Kline, Kupiec, Melito, Meczywor, Mucci, Nocher and Tomkowicz. Abstention by Vice Chairman Cowie. Motion passed.*

Motion made by Member Tomkowicz to approve the Executive Budget as presented, second by Member Kline. Voted in favor were Chairman Burdick, Vice Chairman Cowie, Members Butler, Cushenette, Foster, Johnson, Kline, Kupiec, Melito, Meczywor, Mucci, Nocher and Tomkowicz. Abstention by Member Duval. Motion passed.

*Motion made by Member Kline to approve the General Government Budget as presented, second by Vice Chairman Cowie. Voted in favor were Chairman Burdick, Vice Chairman Cowie, Members Butler, Cushenette, Duval, Foster, Johnson, Kline, Kupiec, Melito, Mucci, Nocher and Tomkowicz. Abstention by Member Meczywor. Member Foster inquired about putting the Assessor, Treasurer and Town Clerk under the Town Accountant. Town Administrator Green advised that this will happen only when they become appointed, under the Home Rule Petition. He noted that it requires state approval to change it. It would first be put on the Town meeting warrant, and if approved goes to state legislature under the Home Rule Petition, and once approved is put into place. It was pointed out that all of the positions work collaboratively now and will work more collaboratively going forward. It was explained that a charter review has not been done yet but will be done going forward. **Vote: unanimous. Motion passed.***

Member Mucci recused herself from the next vote and stepped away to sit in the audience.

Motion made by Member Butler to approve the budget for the Hoosac Valley Regional School District, second by Member Cushenette. Voted in favor were Chairman Burdick, Members Butler, Cushenette, Duval, Foster, Kline, Kupiec, Melito, Meczywor, Nocher and Tomkowicz. Voted in opposition were Vice Chairman Cowie and Member Johnson. Abstention by Member Mucci. Motion passed.

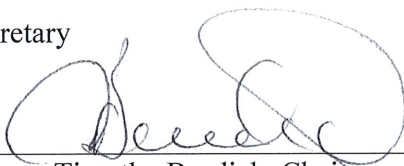
Members Butler, Kline and Mucci recused themselves from the next vote and stepped away to sit in the audience.

Motion made by Member Cushenette to approve the budget for Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District/McCann, second by Vice Chairman Cowie. Voted in favor were Chairman Burdick, Vice Chairman Cowie, Members Cushenette, Duval, Foster, Johnson, Kupiec, Melito, Meczywor, Nocher and Tomkowicz. Abstentions by Members Butler, Kline and Mucci. Motion passed.

Chairman Burdick thanked the Finance Committee Members for their time and dedication. He announced that there will be a meeting in a few weeks to review the Town Meeting Warrant Articles. Member Tomkowicz announced that those interested in getting vaccinated set up their appointments at www.getvaccinatedberkshires.org.

ADJOURNMENT: *Motion made by Vice Chairman Cowie to adjourn, second by Member Kline. Vote: Unanimous. Motion passed. The Finance Committee Meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted,
Deborah J. Dunlap, Recording Secretary



Timothy Burdick, Chairman