



*Town of Adams Massachusetts 01220-2087*

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**TOWN HALL BUILDING  
8 PARK STREET**

**Thursday, April 7, 2022, 6:00 p.m.**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER:** On the above date the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee held a joint workshop at the Visitors Center first floor meeting room. The Board of Selectmen workshop was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Duval. Present from the Board of Selectmen were Chairman Duval, Vice Chair Hoyt, Members Blanchard, and Nowak. *Member Rosenberg was absent.* The Finance Committee Workshop was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Finance Committee Chair Cushenette. Present from the Finance Committee were Chair Cushenette, Vice Chair Burdick, Members Burnett, Duval, Foster, Johnson, Kline, Meczywor, Melito, Mucci, Nocher and Tomkowicz. *Members Butler and Murray were absent.* Also present were Town Administrator Green, Finance Director Wojcik, Retirement Board Chair Jayko, Retirement Board Administrator Flynn, McCann Superintendent Brosnan, McCann Business Manager Dan Mackay, HVRSD Superintendent Dean, Business Manager Erica Snyder, Administrative Assistant Dunlap and Brian Rhodes from iBerkshires.

**FY2023 BUDGET REVIEW**

**Finance and Technology:** *Town Administrator Green and Finance Director Wojcik* gave a brief overview of the Finance and Technology budgets.

**Finance Committee:** *Finance Director Wojcik* advised the Finance Committee personal services and operations expenses have been level-funded. Capital Expenses include the Reserve Fund, which remains at \$175,000 and is level-funded from previous years. She reviewed the amount spent in FY21, and noted the balance of \$757,537 to start Fiscal Year 2022. She advised so far, the amount spent in Fiscal Year 2022 is \$113,000 which was for elevator repairs and a DPW truck. She reported the new balance is \$819,537. *Finance Committee Member Foster* inquired about how the preliminary budget doesn't show what was spent of the \$175,000, and it was explained that it shows up in the reports at the end of the year because there are no month-to-month expense reports. The R

**Reserve Fund:** The Reserve Fund was briefly explained.

*Finance Committee Member Burnett arrived at 6:05 p.m.*

**Employee/Retiree Benefits:** It was explained that Workers Compensation and Life Insurance costs are stable, but up a little. Health Insurance is increasing by 8%, and current employee insurance is reflected in their individual department budgets. It was noted that this budget line is for retirees. A brief review of the insurance laws was given and it was noted that those departments with volunteers are covered such as Forest Wardens. Retirement System Administrator, Bill Flynn explained that retirement costs are mandated funding. The Town's fulfillment schedule is set for 2038 and by law is required by 2040. He noted there is a built-in annual 7% increase to the assessment, which is mandated by state law. A breakdown of the different retirement units was given and it was explained that the Hoosac Valley Regional School District, the Town of Adams, Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District, Adams Housing Authority, and the Fire and Water District make up the entire retirement system. Salaries of employees in each unit are submitted to PERAC and an actuary parses them out to do the assessments. The funding schedule is mapped out as far as possible, and a layoff in one area may affect percentages in another area. School and Town schedules both fluctuate between 1% and 1.5% per year. There was a purchase of new software for the retirement system from a company that has 90 systems across the state. It

is expected that going forward it will be more accurate. He reviewed that in 1988 the Town switched from a “pay as you go” system and the state pushed the fulfillment schedule back twice, now to 2040, to even it out. He explained the schedule has not changed in 12 years, and the Retirement System is faced with the schedule the state gives for assessments. *Finance Committee Member Foster* inquired what percent is funded for retirement, and it was explained that as of 2020 the Town was 64.7% funded, which is in the middle of the pack statewide. History of the retirement funding changes was given, initiated by the City of Detroit filing bankruptcy, which did away with retirement, so the federal government wants enough money in the bank to pay for retirement promises. *Finance Committee Member Foster* pointed out that the Town needs to put money away for this, and *Retirement Administrator Flynn* explained that what the funding schedule is. Board of Selectmen Member Nowak noted that a former Town Administrator said the Town had to put money away for OPEB, which was explained as “Other Post-Employment Benefits or promises to retirees for health and life insurance. It was noted that the Town has almost no money put aside for OPEB. The hope is to get Adams paid off with the retirement system and then money would be put into OPEB. *Board of Selectmen Member Nowak* noted that in the past the Town was in very good standing with pensions in the pension plan and inquired whether the Town gained back all that was lost a couple years ago. *Retirement System Administrator Flynn* advised it was a misstatement that in 2008, the last big crash, it was devastating to everyone. He noted that Adams was, up until last year, investing in many money managers and last year it was decided to invest in a state fund and moved assets to them. He noted this is one of the biggest state funds in the country now and it comes with more professional investment. He explained that for years Adams invested themselves and did well, and then a turn of the tide was the reason for turn to the state. He pointed out that last year there was a 20.16% return on investments. The Pension Reserve Investment Trust (PRIT) is now where the money is and the hope is to mitigate this going forward. He explained that the market is down 4% for first two months this year but it is early in the year. An inquiry was made whether the Town could invest in hedge funds and stocks, and it was noted this could be done but it is very difficult to expect a layman to invest that kind of money so an investment consultant is needed to guide what to invest in, and this costs money. The amount is a percentage of the state PRIT fund because they are diverse funds, similar to a mutual fund, in a group. It was noted that Berkshire County Retirement did well with PRIT and is now 87% funded. It was explained that 2/3 of the retirement systems put all of their money in them, and the rest manage the funds themselves. Discussion took place regarding preparing for OPEB and to meet the mandated goal it was explained that putting aside additional funding to prepare for it is better than doing nothing. It was noted that similar to a credit card payment, the Town has to start putting a little more aside or will never get ahead. *Finance Committee Member Kline* inquired why the Town is not part of Berkshire County Retirement Board, and it was explained that in 1937 Adams decided to set up their own retirement system and has not changed since then. About 54 Berkshire County Retirement Systems are in place, which includes housing authorities, water and fire districts, but not all units are in the Retirement System. Massachusetts was explained as a non-social security state and Retirement System Members are not allowed to contribute to social security. Windfall Elimination and Deferred Compensation were explained. *Hoosac Valley Regional School District Superintendent Dean* noted that the Teachers Retirement System cover some of the school staff. *McCann Superintendent Brosnan* noted McCann is under the City of North Adams and provides an assessment to North Adams for pensions. *Hoosac Valley Regional School District Business Manager Snyder* advised that the District needs \$53 Million to catch up. *Board of Selectmen Member Nowak* pointed out that putting money away shows good faith and that the Town recognizes what needs to be done. The Retirement Board Members were noted as being one person elected by the members of the Retirement Board, one member of the retiree class, the Treasurer / Tax Collector of the Town is ex-officio, one Member is appointed by the Board of Selectmen, one member is an “off-system” person who is not part of the in-house retirement system, and the Town Accountant, by law, is also a member. It was noted that the Board and the Town Treasurer / Tax Collector are the check and balance which is needed in small system, as well as the oversight by PERAC, which audits all the systems in the commonwealth. It was explained that the Retirement System is being audited this summer. The investment side is in the Pension Reserve Investment Trust (PRIT), who is responsible for it, and there was a gain of 20% when PRIT came on. The state actuary will supply to the board a number of funding options of two or three avenues of what can be done. The Board will be making that decision in the fall. *Finance Committee Member Foster* inquired who pays attention to investments made by PRIT, and it was explained that PRIT by statute has a seven-member oversight

board and the State Comptroller sits on the board. The in-house paid professional staff do the returns against the peers nationwide. *Finance Director Wojcik* explained the costs for employee physicals, and a one-time fee to Harpers Payroll. She outlined the employee incentive, employee health reimbursement cards, education and DPW license expenses, sick time buy-backs, Medicare match for a court judgment, retirement benefits, and other items. *Finance Committee Member Foster* inquired why the employee incentive is so high, and it was noted that sick-time buy-backs and HRA cards are reconciled at the end of the year. It was explained that Workman's Compensation costs are set by the state, and should be enough as budgeted. *Board of Selectmen Member Nowak* inquired the total cost of the 8% increase in health insurance, which was calculated to be \$80,000. *Finance Committee Member Kline* asked for clarification on the HRA cards, and it was noted they are just for employees, not retirees. A family plan is \$500 and a single plan is \$250. It was explained that when you sign up for the insurance it is part of the health plan the Town signed up with and part of bargaining.

**Town Accountant:** It was explained that this budget is for the Finance Director and Financial Assistant, as two individual health plans instead of one individual plan. Operating expenses are mostly level-funded, with an added \$420 for monthly bills for a private document shredding as the grant funds that paid for it ran out. The education and travel line added \$300 for annual conferences and education as they are finally in-person.

**Technology:** It was noted that this fund is for Rob Wnuk, who manages the IT. It provides a 2% cost of living adjustment. Operating expenses show \$24,000 ClearGov budgeting software which will be a worthwhile investment for the Town to streamline budgeting process. It was explained that Pittsfield uses this system and has had success with it. This would eliminate the need to use three different software systems to create the budget. It was clarified that it includes measures, reporting, forecasting, trends and other options that are not available right now and can be integrated into the Town webpage for accessibility. It was explained that the Town Assessor and Town Treasurer office require specialized software. \$20,000 is for cybersecurity improvements. *Finance Committee Member Foster* inquired where the money for the technology fund comes from, and it was explained it is provided by the cable company. IT costs and shared services for IT were briefly discussed. It was pointed out that software application issues during the day may not be taken care of, but in the evening and overnight, or on weekends he may be on the job. It was pointed out that this is one of the competing needs in the financial pie.

**Property & Liability Insurance:** *Finance Director Wojcik* advised this information is based on an estimate from MIIA. Fidelity refers to bonds on public officials required by the Town Charter, and deductibles depend on the claims and are an estimate based on what MIIA provides. *Finance Committee Member Burnett* inquired about cyber insurance and it was noted that the Town has it.

**McCann School:** *McCann Superintendent Brosnan* explained the Chapter 70 funds from last year and noted there are 26 more students at McCann. Legislation changes were made due to underfunding, and being under-represented in the Chapter 70 calculation. He noted the poverty level dropped, and there are 30 parts to the complex calculations. The Student Opportunities Act increased the Chapter 70 funds. He noted that transportation is a match between state funds and the cost of transportation, and what is not used is refunded to the communities. He gave an estimate of the preliminary budget and noted that the school has seen a higher reimbursement in June than January, which is paid twice a year. He explained there is an overall decrease to Adams in the amount of \$107,000, which is a proportional switch, and put into the calculation. Transportation is less, and there is more state aid. *Finance Committee Member Foster* asked where refunded money goes and it was noted that it goes into the General fund. It was explained that the State creates numbers for Chapter 70 funds. It was explained that McCann was able to pick up certain costs from grants. *Superintendent Brosnan* noted there is a one-to-one student ratio with Chromebook, which is paid for with grant money, and the devices need to be upgraded, updated, repaired and maintained. *Finance Committee Member Foster* inquired if there are any new positions in the budget, and it was explained that McCann is carrying three positions from last year and adding one teacher. It was explained that other funding was found to do what would normally be an increase. Examples of the Capital Skills Grant, and technology grants, were given as funding and flexibility solutions. It was noted that the State gave more money, and a plan was written for how many more teaching positions were needed. It was explained that it is important to take advantage of the funding when it comes in to move the

district ahead and get a little relief on the municipal side. *Board of Selectmen Member Nowak* inquired if the State Representative and Senator were approached to get the funds, and how grants were strategized. It was explained that the legislators were not individually spoken with but the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents collectively works with the House of Representatives and Senate to represent all schools in the state, and speaks about important topics representing vocational schools. *Finance Committee Member Foster* inquired why the budget for paraprofessionals was so low, and it was explained that grant funding is being used to reduce the costs. The budget will increase again in a couple years if there are no grants available. Professional salaries were explained as being for technology. It was noted that the more technology the school has, the more the system has to be maintained. Some is done with students, but there are over 1,000 computers that have to have software upgrades, repairs, maintenance and servers, and requires the salaries of two teachers do it. *Finance Committee Member Foster* recommending having the students do the work so it is free. He noted that if McCann doesn't get the grant funding, the towns have to take over the financial burden. It was noted that McCann is taking advantage of the opportunity for grants for this work and in the future will shift the budget accordingly. *Finance Committee Member Foster* advised that in the future he wants to see where McCann get the grants from and what amount has been saved. *Superintendent Brosnan* advised it is outlined on annual town meeting and on the website. *Board of Selectmen Chair Duval* inquired about capital improvements. It was explained that asbestos removal is taking place, and completion of air ventilation with grant funding. Next in the queue is the single-pane glass and a nearly 30-year-old roof, which will likely be an MSBA project. The shops have overall been redesigned. These upcoming projects will be looked at next year for the budget in the following year. The need for energy efficiency was emphasized, especially with the cost of electricity going up. Discussion took place on providing more modern equipment to be more energy efficient. *Superintendent Brosnan* advised the grants overall amount to approximately \$572,000 and have provided things like Special Education and Title 1. A \$20,000 grant is for a workforce training, and most of the paraprofessionals are tied into it. *Finance Committee Member Foster* noted it effects the budget when the grants run out and then the costs come back to the town. He advised he would like to know in next year's budget if there are employees that are grant funded that are costing the town, because maybe the position is not needed. *Superintendent Brosnan* advised he put this into the budget, and does not add it to the top end of the budget. It was clarified that the grant also covers employee benefits. *Finance Committee Member Johnson* inquired where school choice tuition goes to, and it was clarified that it is to Taconic High School. It was noted that two towns have three students each, and they are assessed in their parts of the calculations. School Choice was explained in detail. It was explained that not every student that applies gets into McCann, as there is a waiting list. The waiting list is not a town by town basis, but one single list. Concern was expressed about Taconic becoming a technical school and it was explained this will be more for south county because of geography. It was pointed out that there has never been a plumbing program, but there will be a roof and glass program, which may require an expansion of the building. *Finance Committee Member Burnett* inquired if there are different programs being offered with athletics due to an increase in athletic salaries, and it was clarified there are no new programs, just a normal increase in salaries.

*At 7:29 p.m. a recess took place, and the meeting reconvened at 7:38 p.m.*

**Hoosac Valley Regional School District:** *Superintendent Dean* explained new programming for education pathways that are being built toward career readiness. He noted there are a number of courses for dual enrollment and college courses at the School District that many people are not aware of. He noted the District is financially responsible for all students in Adams and Cheshire and need to provide services all the way to age 22. He explained that students that lived in the community at one time and have parents living in different communities own parts of the bills. He explained there are some monetary expenses that McCann does not have to manage. The Charter School is a financial impact that doesn't go to McCann, and \$1.2 Million goes to BART Charter School. He noted the District has additional expenses because of it, though a little reimbursement comes in but not enough. He pointed out it is a 35-part formula for budgeting. He noted that McCann gets a \$4,500 bump per student for being a vocational school, but Hoosac Valley Regional School District is declining in enrollment. He noted that options in the secondary level will push the District to make difficult decisions in next few years. *HVRSD Business Manager Snyder* reviewed enrollment trends, including School Choice students. She noted as of October 1<sup>st</sup>, enrollment in Adams was down 26 students and Cheshire increased, which was the opposite

swing from last year. She noted this affects how the District assesses the towns. A history of enrollment splits and assessments was reviewed. She reviewed the Cherry Sheet from the state-level Department of Education and advised that Chapter 70 funds increased \$35,811, at about \$30 per foundation enrollment student. She noted that McCann had a big jump in Chapter 70 funds and HVRSD only got \$35,000. *Superintendent Dean* advised he is on the Legislative Committee for the Association of Superintendents. He noted that 20 students aren't going to make a difference with all of the services that need to be provided. He explained that 50.5% of the District's budget is state aid. Thought the District is "Held Harmless", which will not reduce the Chapter 70 funds, but the District only got the minimum of \$30 per student. Charter School reimbursements for those who attended the Charter School were reviewed. It was explained that the District is budgeted to pay \$1.2 Million, but will only receive \$217,000 in reimbursements. *Business Manager Snyder* advised the District uses these funds to take off the assessments at the start. It was explained that the funds are given to the towns next year instead of giving it back the same year, different than McCann. It was pointed out that the Cherry Sheet numbers are ever changing and funds go into a revolving fund, and not into the general budget. It was explained that state aid reduced net of estimated charges. *Board of Selectmen Chair Duval* inquired about the Chapter 70 funds received in state aid, and the huge discrepancy between the Charter School sending and receiving over the last 10 years to create such a dramatic change. It was explained that School Choice is the reason. *Superintendent Dean* noted the impact of the closing of the Cheshire Elementary School, which is when the shift happened. He explained that he has been overhauling curriculum, expanding programs and doing a lot with the kids despite challenging budget to work with. *Board of Selectmen Chair Duval* inquired what makes up the difference with the reimbursement vs. tuition charge formula and schedule. It was explained that there is more in state budget for Charter Schools, and tuition there goes up, which is what is assessed to the District. There are 64 students in School Choice to the Charter School, down from 71. It was explained that though there are less students, more money is going there based on the formula. Financial negatives were noted but the primary elementary number is going up and stabilizing and there is a viable Pre-K enrollment currently. *Finance Committee Chair Cushenette* noted that in 2017 the District lost 100 students, and every year loses about 50 students per year. It was explained that it is a popular choice across the state to go into a Vocational School, so the HVRSD need to do something different, such as the Pathways Program. *Finance Committee Member Kline* inquired if there is anything that can be done to help reverse the enrollment decline, and it was pointed out that help is needed to change the narrative. It was pointed out that students will go where they are going to go, and it make no sense to spend more for half the students. *Business Manager Snyder* requested help in advocating for a change in the way it is assessed. It was clarified that it is partially the way it is because of the dynamics specific to Adams, having a Charter School. Per pupil costs were discussed, and are based on the level of needs which drives the cost per student to vary dramatically. It was pointed out that out-placements cost more because if a student goes to another school the District has to pay for them to go to that school. *Superintendent Dean* advised that the District needs legal counsel to create settlement agreements. State transportation costs for regional schools were promised but never fully funded and though last year it was close to 90%, this budget it is only 70%. Bus contracts were discussed briefly and it was noted that the contract was just renegotiated and costs decreased this year. A chart of revenue sources was reviewed. The total overall budget was outlined as \$20 Million, which is an increase over last year. This year there is an additional technology position in the operating budget that will be maintained due to instructional software pieces with online learning. It was noted the District is also a one-to-one ratio for students to Chromebook devices. There are now 1,400 devices, where it used to be 500 devices and this covers maintenance and management software. Normal contractual increases were noted, with insurance, Adams Retirement and Charter increases over last year as well. Insurance splits were noted as being 75/25 and 60/40, with a 51/49 split for retirees. It was noted that the District is responsible for transporting students to BART, though the number of students riding buses for BART has decreased. The budget line includes costs for homeless students, special education and out-placements as well as software costs to plan routes and bus lists. A change in the Capital Budget was explained as being the final payments on the boiler bond, but the building project bonds have a few more years. The foundation budget calculations were reviewed, as was the assessment to the Town, based on October 1<sup>st</sup> numbers. It was explained that on the DESE site is the minimal contribution, and both communities see an increase this year where last year both saw a decrease. It was noted that a large portion of the foundation increase is a minimum increase at the state level. It was noted that the Adams percentage went down slightly, and

impacts on how the dollar amount is split between towns was explained. It was noted that the biggest part of the increase is statutory, and set by the state. It was noted that the Town pays over the minimum anyway. *Business Manager Snyder* reviewed the transportation assessment and explained it was reduced by state contribution, and is impacted based on enrollment splits. Clarification was made that his is based on enrollment, not on the number of students Adams has on the bus. Capital assessments were noted as being boiler bonds and building project bonds, which are assessed based on enrollment. It was noted that the Adams assessment went down due to a shift in enrollment at the elementary school, which decreased last year for Adams students. The total assessment is up 2.26%, to \$6,299,090 and does include the building project. *Finance Committee Vice Chair Burdick* inquired about the Capital Assessment, and the splits being based on enrollment in building. It was outlined that Cheshire enrollment showed 76 in the building, but it was clarified that the cost is District owned, not the building. *Superintendent Dean* explained that over the next few years the District will be working to get programs more consolidated and efficient for delivery. It was clarified that 26% of the students are qualified as special needs, which is higher than the state average. Individual Education Plans (IEPs) were explained, and it was noted there are 300 across the district. He advised of the criteria used when evaluating changes, including whether there is a moral responsibility for offering these programs, and whether the money spent is providing results. He noted he is overhauling curriculum and creating a shift in the District. He advised that next year the District will more efficiently use staff and he has not been able to make shifts because of the pandemic. He explained the District has utilized entitlement and special education grants to build a budget for core educators. Supplemental services are coming from grants, such as bridge positions. He noted the District may not be able to maintain them as they are grant funded. *Finance Committee Member Johnson* inquired how many out-of-District placements there were due to IEPs, and it was explained it reduced from 9 to a couple. He noted that the enrollment number projected for kindergarten may be in the 90s, and he needs to maintain reasonable class sizes. He noted the class size average is 19 students, and has 4 School Choice slots open. The teacher to student ratio for the elementary school was noted as an average of 17 students per teacher, with para-professionals and additional support. The middle school projected enrollment was noted as being in the 70s. *Superintendent Dean* advised that he may well be looking at something different for high school students in the next few years, as many students are going to McCann and maybe 22 are going to the high school. There are a number of School Choice slots that can be offered in this area. He noted the difficult part of having the 8<sup>th</sup> grade in the high school is that the grade runs a totally different program within the school. He pointed out the challenges with consolidating and having to offer so many things. The ratio is 14 students to one teacher, with smaller class sizes. There are 34 openings for School Choice. It was noted that on average two thirds of the graduating students are going to a 4-year college, but a handful drop out. He pointed out that the pandemic had a drastic effect on that because it was difficult to get students to log in to do their work. He noted the difficulty in getting substitute teachers, as well and pointed out that there is no teaching certificate needed to be a substitute. He noted the budget maintains services District-wide and is getting students integrated into classes to make them part of the community. He advised of emotional and behavior challenges requiring therapeutic services and noted the District is working with outside services to provide therapy services and outside guidance to allow the district to maintain a reasonable class size. He reviewed the intervention program this year for math and next year for science. He advised the District is using grant funds for one-time purchases to update important areas, and expects to see growth in ELA scores. He explained that in 2024 grant funds will go away and it will be reflected in the budget as it is an important piece. He noted at the High School he is looking at schedule and funding 5 core positions there out of grants, but reviewing them for consolidation. If positions can be repurposed they will be looked at for that possibility within the framework of what has to be offered for students to meet all requirements more efficiently. He noted the District's support of paraprofessional needs with the grants and core people in the budget. He noted curriculum updates and maintenance projects in the elementary school, which includes fire panels. He advised of two gym roofs at the high school, and he is assembling lists of maintenance projects. It was noted that the only foreign language being offered currently is Spanish, but other online programs can be offered. The core budget shows a 1.96% increase, which he noted as being responsible. When grants are gone, programming is gone. He noted the two communities always give above the minimum and the District would not be able to function without them. Individual budget line items were reviewed and a budget history was given about revenue. A 5-year budget history on expenditures was given and it was noted to be broken down in departments. It was noted that positions

were pulled out of the core budget, and an increase in the elementary grades 1 through 3 is funded by School Choice. OT and PT for speech are specialists, and there is additional instructional support including guidance, library and technology staff. He noted he put a technology person into the budget, and the instructional positions went down because of funding by Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). *Finance Committee Member Foster* questioned the addition of the technology person and it was explained that the District had shared services until the pandemic but had to make changes. It was explained as a new position, but the person was already within the District. He explained that the HVAC system was balanced and engineered and is solid. The high school had the HVAC reviewed and had motors rebuilt to stay ahead of any issues. *Finance Committee Member Foster* noted that the previous 4 years represented are budgeted numbers and he would like actual numbers. *Superintendent Dean* advised that the School Committee does the work of comparing the budget to the actual numbers. He advised that anything not spent came back to E&D. The balance in E&D was noted as being 4.6% or about \$800,000. It was explained that the District can only carry up to 5% of the budget total in E&D and right now it is at 4.67%, or about \$800,000 based on the Business Manager's projections. It was noted as a good practice to have that money as a reserve to look good for a bond rating and the fund is the stabilization fund for schools. It was explained that the District cannot spend it without approval of the Town. *Finance Committee Member Foster* expressed that the District could give the money back to the Town, and it was explained that the District does, to a certain extent. He expressed that it is the Town's money and the District was shut down in 2020 so he questioned what was actually spent. He inquired if stipends were paid out for coaches that didn't work, and expressed that he would like to see what the District is really spending. *Finance Committee Member Burnett* advised that information is available on the DESE website if anyone wanted to do a more comprehensive review. *Superintendent Dean* clarified that if there is over 5% it has to come back to the town. *Board of Selectmen Chair Duval* noted that if the District gives the communities back any additional funding but in the next year several emergencies happen, the District will have to increase assessments if it is not in the fund for use. *Superintendent Dean* noted that he is looking at maintaining a sustainable program down the road.

***Motion made by Member Blanchard to adjourn the Board of Selectmen Workshop, second by Vice Chair Hoyt. Vote: unanimous. Motion passed. The Board of Selectmen Workshop adjourned at 8:48 p.m.***

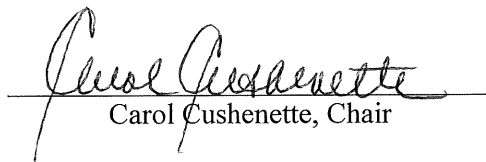
#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the Finance Committee March 31, 2022 meeting were presented for approval. ***Motion made by Finance Committee Member Burnett to approve the minutes as submitted, second by Finance Committee Vice Chair Burdick. Vote: unanimous. Motion passed.***

***Motion made by Finance Committee Member Tomkowicz to adjourn, second by Vice Chair Burdick. Vote: unanimous. Motion passed. Finance Committee Meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.***

*Respectfully Submitted,*

Deborah J. Dunlap, Recording Secretary

  
Carol Cushenette, Chair