



Town of Adams Massachusetts 01220-2087

FINANCE COMMITTEE

TOWN HALL BUILDING
8 PARK STREET

MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2021 AT 5:00 P.M.

FINANCE COMMITTEE / BOARD OF SELECTMEN WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: On the above date and time the Finance Committee held a joint workshop with the Board of Selectmen at the Adams Forest Wardens Building, 1 Wardens Drive, Adams. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Finance Committee Chair Burdick. Present from the Finance Committee were Chairman Burdick, Vice Chairman Cowie, Members Butler, Cushenette, Duval, Kline, Kupiec, Meczywor, Melito, and Tomkowicz. Also present were Town Administrator Green, Forest Warden Kleiner, Forest Wardens Staff and Administrative Assistant Dunlap. At 5:00 p.m. the Board of Selectmen called their meeting to order. Present from the Board of Selectmen were Chairman Duval, Vice Chairman Hoyt, Members Nowak and Rosenberg.

Inspect Forest Warden Department ATV: *Vice Chairman Cowie* inquired whether the department has a skid, and it was clarified that the Wardens have is not in good shape. It was explained that in neutral position the light is always on and it overheats. *Member Tomkowicz* inquired why there was a request to replace the equipment rather than fix it. It was explained that it is thirty years old, and Ronnie's will not fix it. If there is enough value in the unit the Town will have to put it out to bid. A brief overview was given of what happened when the ATV broke down, and how it cannot start. It was noted that the DPW helps with repairs and does a great job with what they are able to work with. It was pointed out that when the Forest Wardens are dealing with lives and property, the Town can't take chances. Manual transmissions were explained and it was noted that automatic transmissions take care of themselves for shifting. It was confirmed that the new unit is 4-wheel-drive on demand, and only the core volunteers will drive it. At 5:12 p.m. *Finance Committee Member Kline* arrived. It was outlined that the request is for \$17,000 worth of safety for fires. The proposed unit is liquid cooled, where the old unit was air cooled. *Member Melito* confirmed the legalities of the vehicle being used for mutual aid for emergency services. It was pointed out that every department should have one ATV to bring staff and equipment to remote areas, and those with remote areas cannot live without it. The benefits of having the ATV for the department and for mutual aid purposes were listed. The difference in width between units and the trailers were noted and the challenges of the size of trails were explained. A brief explanation was given about the reason that Truck 1 overheated, and the DPW Chief Mechanic redesigned and fixed the problem. It was explained that the original trailer was received via a grant and the desire to keep it with the Town was expressed. It was pointed out that the Emergency Management and Forest Wardens Departments share manpower and equipment. Procurement laws for disposal of property were briefly outlined. It was explained that the Town is stepping up its involvement with the regional Emergency Management and it is not known if a grant can come in through the regional group for support. The shelter operations are all owned by the Regional Emergency Operations Center. *Member Kline* inquired whether stepping up financial involvement with the regional center will help the town overall with grant opportunities, and it was explained that the Town will have access to all of the grant resources. The height differential between the units was clarified.

At 5:32 p.m. Member Kupiec arrived.

ADJOURNMENT: *Motion made by Board of Selectmen Vice Chairman Hoyt to adjourn the Board of Selectmen Workshop, second by Member Rosenberg. Vote: Unanimous. Motion passed. The Board of Selectmen Workshop adjourned at 5:32 p.m.*

Motion made by Vice Chairman Cowie to adjourn the Finance Committee Workshop, second by Member Meczywor. Vote: Unanimous. Motion passed. The Finance Committee Workshop adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Deborah J. Dunlap, Recording Secretary*



Carol Cushenette, Finance Committee Chair