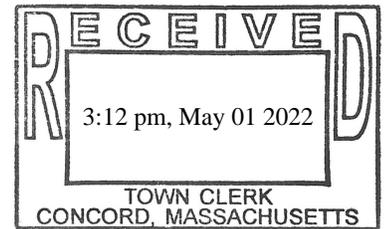


Town of Concord
Finance Committee



Meeting Minutes – March 24, 2022

Agenda: <https://concordma.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/03242022-9544>

Present: Ms. Christine Reynolds [chair], Ms. Mary Hartman, Mr. Parashar Patel, Ms. Dee Ortner, Mr. Greg Guarriello, Ms. Kathy Cuocolo, Mr. Andrews, Mr. Dean Banfield, Mr. Don Kupka, Ms. Peggy Briggs, Mr. John Hickling, Mr. Eric Dahlberg, Ms. Lois Wasoff, Mr. Amrith Kumar [scribe].

Others present: Mr. Keith Bergman, Chair of Concord Municipal Affordable Housing Trust, Ms. Carmin Reiss, Town Moderator, Ms. Casey Atkins, chair of SEPAC, Mr. Dan Healey, town resident, Ms. Kris Tarlow, town resident, Ms. Meg Ansara, town resident.

Open Meeting

At 7:00 pm Ms. Reynolds called the meeting was called to order in the Public Hearing Room at Town House, 22 Monument Square. There being a quorum of members present in the room, a roll call vote was not taken.

Ms. Reynolds reminded members of correspondence that was circulated relative to Article 18. In response to the correspondence, Ms. Hartman stated that the Finance Committee has not proposed reductions to individual budget line items, our guideline addresses total spending.

Mr. Bergman, Chair of the Concord Municipal Affordable Housing Trust addressed the meeting and presented information about the recently adopted affordable housing guidelines that have been drafted. Mr. Bergman and the Committee discussed the guidelines and related matters.

Mr. Patel reviewed a slide presentation about Concord Public Schools (CPS) FY 2023 Budget. During the discussion, Mr. Patel and members of the committee agreed that the intent was not to micro-manage the school budget, but rather to highlight the importance of having the total budget meet the guidelines recommendation. It was felt that the role of the Finance Committee is to help the members of the public (at town meeting) understand the implications of the options being presented to them. The challenge with Article 18 (CPS budget) is that we have no additional information on the tradeoffs that are possible here. Members strongly urged that it would serve the town better to reach a compromise and come to town meeting with that number.

Ms. Reiss provided the team a clarification on the mechanics of amending motions at town meeting.

Mr. Patel made a MOTION which was seconded by Mr. Kumar, that at the Town Meeting, the Finance Committee make an amendment to the main motion on the CPS Budget Article (18) as follows:

“The Finance Committee moves to amend the main motion under Article 18 by changing the sum to be appropriated from \$43,148,899 to \$42,836,314.”

The motion passed with thirteen votes in favor and one vote against.

Ms. Reynolds informed the committee that she would work with Ms. Hartman and Mr. Banfield and together make recommendations on officers for the Finance Committee and the guidelines subcommittee at a future meeting.

Ms. Wasoff provided an update on the process for creating the Finance Committee Report.

Ms. Reynolds provided a review of the calendar, and future meetings.

Ms. Atkins, Mr. Healey, Ms. Tarlow, and Ms. Ansara addressed the Finance Committee in support of the CPS Budget.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Amrith Kumar