

Town of Concord  
Finance Committee  
Meeting Minutes – April 28, 2022

**Present:** Chris Reynolds (Chair), John Hickling, Mary Hartman, Peggy Briggs, Ray Andrews, Dee Ortner, Eric Dahlberg, Lois Wasoff, Greg Guarriello, Brian Taylor, Kathy Cuocolo, Don Kupka

**Absent:** Dean Banfield, Parashar Patel, Amrith Kumar

**Others Present:** Kerry Lafleur – Interim Town Manager, Bob LeLacheur – Interim Financial Director, Terry Ackerman – Select Board, Chair

**Open Meeting:**

Ms. Reynolds called the meeting to order at 7:02pm with a roll call VOTE, with all present voting in the affirmative. The meeting was held via Zoom using the Webinar format, and broadcast via MMN. The Chair noted that the meeting was being recorded via MMN.

Ms Reynolds (Chair) presented the following list of Officers for next year.

Finance Committee: Chair: Peggy Briggs, Clerk: Lois Wasoff

Finance Committee Vice-Chair: Parashar Patel

Guidelines Subcommittee: Chair: Parashar Patel, Clerk: Amrith Kumar

Ms Ortner made a MOTION to approve the Officers as presented. The motion was seconded and a Roll Call VOTE was unanimous.

Warrant Article 18: Ms. Reynolds briefed the Committee reaching agreement with the Concord School Committee regarding the CPS Budget for FY 23. The operating budget agreed to by all parties is \$43,010,486. Select Board voted Affirmative Action on 4/25/22. The Town Website contains an addendum to the Finance Committee Report explaining that the Finance Committee is now recommending Affirmative Action on Article 18 at the revised budget amount. A copy of the addendum will be provided as a handout at Town Meeting.

Ms Hartman made a MOTION that the Finance Committee Recommend Affirmative Action on Article 18 at the revised amount of \$43,010,486. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved by the Committee.

Warrant Article 19: The Concord School Committee has amended the components, but not the total, of their FY 2023 Capital budget request for \$900,000. \$350K originally requested to replace a gas boiler at Alcott Elementary School has been removed from the request. In its stead CPS is requesting \$300,000 for electrical infrastructure supporting heat pumps at Ripley and \$50,000 for a feasibility study of alternative solutions to gas boiler replacements at elementary schools. After discussion, Ms. Reynolds agreed to seek answers to the Committee's questions regarding the amended plan. It was agreed the Committee would meet on Sunday May 1 to deliberate further on Article 19.

Warrant Article 46: Article 46 now recommends the Select board consider allocating \$75,000 from Federal Infrastructure funds for a study of the Reformatory Branch Trail. Ms. Reynolds noted that the Article is now advisory and no longer requests funds from taxpayers, and now believes the article is outside our purview. Previously the Finance Committee had recommended No Action on Article 46. Ms. Ortner MOVED the Finance Committee take No Position on this Article. Ms. Hartman seconded the motion and the roll call VOTE was unanimous.

Town Meeting: Ms Reynolds asked if members felt Fin Com should make public statements on the following Articles at Annual Town Meeting 2022: Articles 9, 10, 18, 19, 24, 25, and the Beede Center. Ms Briggs suggested some people feel Fin Com should make some statement when large sums are being committed like a new school at previous Town Meetings.

It was agreed Fin Com would make statements on Articles 9, 10, 18, and 24. No statement on Article 25 and no statement on the Beede Center unless there is a need to mention the potential need for Town funding in the future. Ms. Ortner suggested Fin Com invite someone from the Recreation Dept or Beede Center to present their projections to the Fin Com next year.

Minutes: Ms Wasoff made a MOTION to approve the following 22 sets of minutes: 2/4/21 Guidelines Subcommittee, 2/11/21 Guidelines Subcommittee, 4/29/21, 5/6/21, 5/11/21, 9/23/21, 10/14/21 Guidelines Subcommittee, 10/21/21 Guidelines Subcommittee, 11/18/21, 12/2/21 Guidelines Subcommittee, 12/15/21, 12/16/21, 1/20/22, 1/27/22, 2/24/22, 3/3/22 Public Hearing, 3/3/22, 3/10/22 Public Hearing, 3/10/22, 3/17/22, 3/24/22, 4/7/22. The Minutes were approved by a unanimous roll call VOTE.

Ms. Reynolds thanked the members who are rolling off the Fin Com at the end of this year: Dean Banfield, Mary Hartman, John Hickling.

Ms. Reynolds opened the meeting for public comments.

Ms. Ackerman praised Ms Reynolds and the Fin Com for their work this year.

Ms Wasoff made a MOTION to Adjourn. Roll call VOTE was unanimous.

Ms. Reynolds adjourned the meeting at 8:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Ray Andrews