



Topsfield Finance Committee
Minutes to the Meetings
Meeting was held
via Videoconference
January 11, 2021

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Topsfield Board of Selectman was conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting can be found on the Topsfield website, at www.topsfieldma.gov.

I. Call to Order: Chair Che Elwell, called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM with Karen Dow, Karen Duval, Jon Guido, Mike Hartmann, Eric Menzer and David Larson. Also present Catherine Gabriel, Town Accountant; Greg Krom, Water Superintendent, Dick Gandt, Selectmen arrived at 7:06. Chairman Elwell noted the meeting would be recorded but was not broadcast live.

II. Meeting Minutes from January 4, 2021 were reviewed and approved

- **Voted:** January 4 minutes; motion Karen Dow; seconded by David Larson, Karen Duvall abstained

III. Presentation of the Water budget by Gregory Krom

- Overall wages were higher. Savings were achieved through cutting back on hydrant flushing, better prices for treatment chemicals and savings in the debt service.
- Mr. Krom noted that there was an automation waiver that was received allowing for the plant to be manned 4 hours a day. It is expected that water rates will stay the same next year.

IV. Liaison Assignment Updates

- Mr. Menzer provided an update on the elementary school budget noting that it is a level service budget and an increase of approximately 5%. Schools will be on the 26th to present to the Fincom.
- Dr. Dow updated that the fire department was in the process of being reviewed
- Karen Duvall met with the police department and the budget is coming just under last years budget. Police to present to the select board on the 28th. Following will be an update to the Fincom. Tentatively will have Police and Fire in on the 1st as well as parks and cemetery.
- Masco budget will be presented on the 20th. Will look to have Masco present to Fincom on the 26th following the elementary schools.

V. Fincom Model Update

- Mr. Hartman provided an updated on the Fincom Model
- Model was updated to include the omnibus budget
- We currently sit at \$378k over the levey limit

VI. Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting: None

VII. Upcoming Meeting Schedule: The next meetings of the Committee will occur on January 26, 2021 at 7:00 PM via zoom teleconference.

VIII. Adjourn: A motion was made by Karen Dow to adjourn at 8:24 PM, seconded by Karen Duval and voted in favor by roll call vote of 7-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Menzer,

Finance Committee Clerk
