

**Finance Committee Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
Monday, March 25, 2024, at 5:30 pm  
Bellingham Municipal Center  
Arcand Meeting Room**

Finance Committee Members Present: J. Allam (Chairman), J. Collamati (Vice-Chairman), K. Keppler, J. Kuzmeskas, J. McCarthy

Finance Committee Members Absent: B. Boyd

Meeting Commenced: J. Allam called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

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J. Kuzmeskas made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 18, 2024, Finance Committee Meeting, as submitted. K. Keppler seconded. Approved 5/0.

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**Public Hearing:** DPW Director, Jesse Riedle, was present to provide an update on each of the Department Accounts listed below for the FY25 Operating Expenses, as well as Capital Requests.

**Article 2 – FY25 Trash Enterprise** is level funded from the FY24 budget, in the amount of \$1,825,082 transferred from Trash Receipts.

**J. Collamati made a motion to recommend Article 2 of the Town Warrant. Seconded by J. Kuzmeskas. Recommended 5/0.**

**Article 3 - FY25 Water Enterprise** in the amount of \$4,077,540 from Water Receipts was presented to Committee members and discussed at the March 18, 2024, Finance Committee meeting.

**K. Keppler made a motion to recommend Article 3 of the Town Warrant. Seconded by J. Collamati. Recommended 5/0.**

**Article 4 - FY25 Sewer Enterprise** in the amount of \$1,724,876 from Trash Receipts was presented to Committee members and discussed at the March 18, 2024, Finance Committee Meeting.

**J. Kuzmeskas made a motion to recommend Article 4 of the Town Warrant. Seconded by K. Keppler. Recommended 5/0.**

**Article 5 - FY25 Stormwater Enterprise** in the amount of \$887,419 from Stormwater Receipts was presented to Committee members, and discussed at the March 18, 2024, Finance Committee meeting.

**J. Collamati made a motion to recommend Article 5 of the Town Warrant. Seconded by J. Kuzmeskas. Recommended 5/0.**

The installation of security cameras and alarm system will take place for the current DPW Facility, water treatment plants, and the new Depot Street DPW Facility. This is for the purchase and installation of 12 security cameras at the locations listed.

**J. Kuzmeskas made a motion to recommend \$24,906 from Free Cash for the purchase and installation of security cameras and FOB's. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 5/0.**

Mr. Riedle presented additional information for paving that will take place on North Main Street, as well as other roadways improvements throughout town, in the amount of \$500,000 from Free Cash.

**J. Collamati made a motion to recommend \$500,000 from Free Cash. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 5/0.**

Request for Phase I of II, for the replacement of Well #11 that is located on Wrentham Road. This request will be funding for initial hydroengineering process, design, and bidding of the project. The project will replace 3 of the 4 wells which are on Wrentham Road.

**J. Collamati made a motion to recommend \$265,710 from Water Retained Earnings for Phase I of Well #11 replacement. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 5/0.**

Request for \$100,000 for the sewer main replacement at the Middle School, due to a consistent number of back-ups happening with the current system.

**J. Kuzmeskas made a motion to recommend \$100,000 from Free Cash for the sewer main replacement at the Middle School. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 5/0.**

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#### **Article 6 – Conveyances and Easements**

K. Keppler made a motion to recommend Article 6 of the Town Warrant for Conveyances and Easements. J. Collamati seconded. Recommended 5/0.

#### **Article 7 – Purchase of Surplus Equipment**

J. Collamati made a motion to recommend Article 7 of the Town Warrant for the Purchase of Surplus Equipment. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 5/0.

#### **Article 8 – Town Property Auction**

J. Collamati made a motion to recommend Article 8 of the Town Warrant for Town Property Auction. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 5/0.

#### **Article 9 – Highway Construction**

K. Keppler made a motion to recommend Article 9 of the Town Warrant for the purposes of Highway Construction. Seconded by J. Kuzmeskas. Recommended 5/0.

#### **Article 10 - Amend FY24 Annual Operating Budget**

No action taken by the Finance Committee

#### **Article 11 – Amend FY24 Trash Enterprise Budget**

No action taken by the Finance Committee

**Article 12 – Amend FY24 Water Enterprise Budget**

No action taken by the Finance Committee

**Article 13 – Amend FY24 Sewer Enterprise Budget**

No action taken by the Finance Committee

**Article 14 – Amend FY24 Stormwater Enterprise Budget**

No action taken by the Finance Committee

**Article 17 – Civil Service Law**

No action taken by the Finance Committee

**Article 20 – Amend Zoning By-Laws Chapter 240, Article VI**

No action taken by the Finance Committee

**Article 21 – Deed in Lieu of Foreclosure**

J. Collamati made a motion to recommend Article 21, pursuant to the provisions of General Laws Chapter 60, Section 77C for a parcel of land located on Pulaski Blvd., (Assessors Map Parcel 0091-0006-0001). J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 5/0.

**Article 22 – Amend General By-laws Chapter 71-6 Revolving Funds**

J. Collamati made a motion to recommend Article 22 of the Town Warrant. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 5/0.

**Article 23 – Opioid Settlement Special Revenue Fund**

K. Keppler made a motion to recommend Article 23 of the Town Warrant. J. Collamati seconded. Recommended 5/0.

**Article 24 – Recission of Unissued Borrowing Authority**

J. Collamati made a motion to recommend Article 24 of the Town Warrant. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 5/0.

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**Committee Members discussed and made Recommendations for the FY25 Budget for Accounts, as listed below:**

**Group Insurance Trust Fund      \$7,650,000**

J. Collamati made a motion to recommend \$7,650,000 from taxation for the Group Insurance Trust Fund. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 5/0.

**Retirement                              \$4,329,820**

J. Kuzmeskas made a motion to recommend \$4,329,820 from taxation for the Retirement Fund. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 5/0.

**Debt Services                              \$3,902,850**

J. Collamati made a motion to recommend \$3,902,850 from taxation for Debt Services Principal and Interest. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 5/0.

**Highway** **\$1,407,647**

J. Collamati made a motion to amend the Highway recommendation to the amount of \$1,407,647 from taxation. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 5/0.

**Property & Liability Ins.** **\$823,500**

K. Keppler made a motion to recommend \$823,500 from taxation for Property & Liability Insurance. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 5/0.

**Library** **\$652,218**

J. Collamati made a motion to recommend \$652,218 from taxation for the Library. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 5/0.

**Medicare** **\$617,400**

K. Keppler made a motion to recommend \$617,400 from taxation for the Medicare. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 5/0.

**Treasurer / Collector** **\$418,463**

J. Collamati made a motion to recommend \$418,463 from taxation for the Treasurer / Collector. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 5/0.

**Building Maintenance** **\$432,591**

J. Collamati made a motion to recommend \$432,591 from taxation for Building Maintenance. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 5/0.

**Chief Financial** **\$466,371**

J. Collamati made a motion to recommend \$466,371 from taxation for Chief Financial. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 5/0.

**Town Administrator** **\$248,702**

J. Collamati made a motion to recommend \$248,702 from taxation for Town Administrator. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 5/0.

**Council on Aging** **\$305,544**

J. Collamati made a motion to recommend \$305,544 from taxation for the Council on Aging. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 5/0.

**Town Inspector** **\$257,599**

K. Keppler made a motion to recommend \$257,599 from taxation for the Inspector. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 5/0.

**Assessors** **\$338,098**

J. Kuzmeskas made a motion to recommend \$338,098 from taxation for the Assessor's Office. J. Collamati seconded. Recommended 5/0.

**Human Resources** **\$194,789**

J. Collamati made a motion to recommend \$194,789 from taxation for Human Resources Personnel. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 5/0.

**Animal Control** **\$177,602**

K. Keppler made a motion to recommend \$177,602 from taxation for Animal Control.  
J. Collamati seconded. Recommended 5/0.

**Board of Health** **\$171,199**

J. Kuzmeskas made a motion to recommend \$171,199 from taxation for the Board of Health.  
J. Collamati seconded. Recommended 5/0.

**Lights** **\$135,000**

J. Collamati made a motion to recommend \$135,000 from taxation for street lighting. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 5/0.

**Selectmen** **\$167,661**

J. Kuzmeskas made a motion to recommend \$167,661 from taxation for the Selectmen Office.  
K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 5/0.

**Planning Board** **\$236,579**

K. Keppler made a motion to recommend \$236,579 from taxation for Planning Board. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 5/0.

**Town Clerk** **\$207,900**

J. Collamati made a motion to recommend \$207,900 from taxation for the Town Clerk. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 5/0.

**Veterans** **\$164,787**

J. Collamati made a motion to recommend \$164,787 from taxation for Veterans. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 5/0.

**Town Counsel** **\$110,000**

J. Collamati made a motion to recommend \$110,000 from taxation for Town Counsel. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 5/0.

**Elections** **\$124,600**

J. Kuzmeskas made a motion to recommend \$124,600 from taxation for the Elections. J. Collamati seconded. Recommended 5/0.

**Conservation Commission** **\$94,978**

J. Kuzmeskas made a motion to recommend \$94,978 from taxation for Conservation. J. Collamati seconded. Recommended 5/0.

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**Committee Members discussed and made Recommendations for the FY25 Budget for Accounts, as listed below:**

OPEB	\$50,000
Reserve Fund	\$50,000
Tax Title	\$50,000
Revaluation	\$45,000
Occupational Health	\$42,808
Town Common	\$35,300
Plumbing & Gas Inspector	\$32,806

Electrical Inspector	\$29,605
OJI Injury for Deductible	\$25,000
Disability	\$20,500
Memorial Day / Veterans	\$18,000
Trans. to Work Comp	\$125,000
Zoning	\$8,000
Cultural Council	\$7,500
Historical Commission	\$7,000
Finance Committee	\$5,682
Town Reports	\$1,115
Town Meeting Moderator	\$100

**K. Keppler made a motion to recommend the amounts listed above from taxation. J. Collamati seconded. Recommended 5/0.**

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**Public Hearing:** Ms. Chuckran and Mr. Fraine were present to answer any additional questions that members had regarding the current FY25 Budget and also discuss any additional departments that would need to attend a future Finance Committee Meeting.

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New Business, Emails, Correspondence, Bills:

The next Finance Committee Meeting will take place on Monday, April 1, 2024, at 5:15 pm, in the Arcand Meeting Room.

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J. Collamati made a motion to adjourn at 7:33 pm. Seconded by K. Keppler. Approved 5/0.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Tina M. Griffin*  
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