

Town of Sterling
Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
April 1, 2021
Zoom

Finance Committee called to order by Todd Chapman at 6:00 PM

Fin Com Attendees: Todd Chapman, George Handy, Chris Paquette, Ezequiel Ayala, Mary Cliett

CBC Attendees: Todd Chapman, Ezequiel Ayala, Lynne Sheppard

Also Attending Remotely: Fred Aponte, Town Accountant and Kellie Hebert, Town Administrator
Arden Sonnenberg, Selectboard, Valerie Handy, Recording Secretary for Finance Committee

Approval of Finance and Capital Committee Minutes: A motion to approve March 25 Joint Finance and Capital Budget Committee Minutes was made by Mary Cliett and 2nd by George Handy. Roll call vote unanimously supported.

Outstanding Issues – Omnibus Budget

Ambulance Wages Growth – Fire Chief David Hurlbut (Zoom)

Chief Hurlbut spoke on the Fire and Ambulance overall operating budget focusing on trends and growth. The chief spoke to two documents: One discussing costs and response times, and the other, a recommendation from former TA Ross Perry supporting the addition of a firefighter/EMT in FY21.. Cost effectiveness and Response Time are two key metrics. Inherent is the need for overnight support to be available without the need to wait for call personnel. The requested new firefighter/EMT (fy22 request) would add daytime support.

FY21 Ambulance Revenue Y-T-D is \$554,000 (fy21 as of 4/1/2021).

Ambulance Reserve transfer of \$55K may be appropriate to pay for requested ALS intercept SUV vehicle. A \$445K transfer to offset budgeted fy22 Ambulance operating cost of \$572K may be appropriate.

Reserve Fund Transfer:

Town Administrator Salary Obligation of \$18,200. A motion to approve the transfer was made by Chris Paquette. 2nd by Ezequiel Ayala. Roll call vote unanimously supported.

Water Reserve – water meter upgrades of \$40,000. A motion to approve the transfer was made by George Handy and 2nd by Mary Cliett. Roll call vote unanimously supported.

Vote on Omnibus Budget: Todd Chapman requested a “Financial Committee Recommends” vote on the Omnibus Budget, noting this is an interim vote and does not reflect the final budget number. The Omnibus budget will be presented at Annual Town meeting as a single warrant item with the final budget amount listed. However, discussion will be allowed on individual line items as needed.

A motion to vote on the fy22 Omnibus budget totaling \$24,713,390.51 was made by Ezequiel Ayala and 2nd by Chris Paquette. Roll call vote: Ayala, Aye; Chapman, Aye; Paquette, Aye; Handy, Nay; Cliett, Aye. Motion approved 4-1.

Vote on Request to Selectboard: A motion to request the Select Board to submit a separate article on the Town Meeting warrant for each new hire (e.g., requested firefighter EMT and requested police

officer) was made by George Handy and seconded by Chris Paquette. Roll call vote: Ayala, Aye; Handy, Aye; Chapman, Nay; Paquette, Aye; Cliett, Aye. Motion approved 4-1. Fincom Chair to advise Select Board of this recommendation

Next Joint FinCom and CBC Meeting Date: April 15, 2021 6:00PM. The meeting will focus on plans to pay for Capital items.

Adjourn Finance Committee Meeting: George Handy moved to adjourn and Chris Paquette seconded. Roll call unanimously supported. Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.