Town of Sterling

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Butterick Municipal Building Room 205

December 13, 2021

Finance Committee meeting called to order by Everett Heller at 6:04 pm

**Fincom Attendees:** Everett Heller, Ezequiel Ayala, Christopher Paquette, Christina Lashua

**Note:** Elizabeth Soutter will be sworn in next week as a Finance Committee Member

**Other Attendees:**  Fred Aponte, Town Accountant and Valerie Handy, Recording Secretary for Finance Committee

**Approval of Fincom Minutes of November 29, 2021:** Motion to approve minutes made by Chris Paquette and 2nd  by Christine Lashua . Roll call vote unanimously supported.

**Finance Committee Approval to follow Town Calendar:**  Motion to approve made by Ezequiel Ayala and 2nd by Chriss Paquette. Roll call vote unanimously supported.

**General Discussion:** Everett gave an update on attending the WRSD meeting on December 9. It is important to focus discussion on the school committee; they are the ones approving the budget.

The Sterling Inn was sold for $600,000. As it was foreclosed for $300K of back taxes, this will result in a $600K surplus to town receipts reserve account for next year.

**Assignment of Financial Committe Members to Town Departments:** Liaisons should try and attend some of the department meetings. It is important to understand the department’s needs as questions will come up.

**Finance Committee Liaison** **Town Departments**

Christina Lashua Town Clerk, Elections, Monty Tech School, Conservation,

Open Space, Police and Animal Control

Ezequiel Ayala Fire and Ambulance, Historical Commission, Recreation,

Department of Public Works, Library

Elizabeth Soutter Board of Health, Senior Center, Veterans/Memorial Day,

Inspections, Info Technology

Chris Paquette Moderator, Board of Appeals, Planning Board 1835 Town Hall

Commission, Facilities Manager

Everett Heller Wachusett Regional School District, Select Board,

Treasurer/Collector, Accounting/Audit, Assessors,

Retirement/Insurance

Regarding the 1835 Town Hall Commission, Everett interjected that he has two questions for them: 1. Where is the septic located and 2. Where are they on variance status (runs across another property… and other issues need to be resolved).

**Discussion on Previous Administrator’s Promise of Debt Monies:**

The library was promised funds. The 1835 department was promised $500 for chairs.

Finance committee liaisons should ask “have you been promised funds?” If so, the proper way this should be handled is by reserve transfer completion.

Another example was a reserve fund transfer of $40k to the DPW. And currently, the DPW does not believe it now needs the money. They were able to avail themselves of $1M of Chapter 90 money that was unspent.

Everett Heller specifically asked Fred Aponte about previous Town Administrator expenses. Some contractual expenses have been eliminated. Some expenses for publications will be investigated. The publication mailing address should be directed to the Town Hall.

Everett Heller, again, asked Fred Aponte to forward Everett’s request to be part of the interview loop for the hiring of the next town administrator.

**Next Meeting:** Jan 11, 6:00 pm

**Motion to Adjourn Finance Committee Meeting 7:00pm:** Motion by Christine Lashua, 2nd by Ezequiel Ayala. Roll call vote unanimously supported.