



**TOWN OF NAHANT
Advisory and Finance Committee**

Members

Robert Vanderslice, Chair
Julie Tarmy, Secretary
Peter Barba
Barbara Beatty
Dan McMackin
Dana Sheehan
Deborah Warren
Judy Zahora

Meeting Minutes Thursday, February 16, 2023 via Zoom.

Members Present: Barba, Beatty, McMackin, Tarmy, Vanderslice, Warren, Zahora

Members Absent: Sheehan

Others Present: J. Lewis, A. Nieto, Joe Phillips, A. Barletta, K. Marden, J. Antrim

Called to order at 6:34 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: **Motion by Beatty to approve minutes of February 2, 2023; second by Barba; unanimously approved.**

BOS budget received; Barletta walked the committee through the Warrant. Budget approved by BOS on 2/15/2023. 3.56% increase over FY2023. Follows a lot of past principles. Current free cash: \$972,535; General Debt due: \$435,000. OPEB balance currently: \$130,000. Recommend continuing with annual \$25K increase. Current liability is \$1M (considering if ALL employees retire tomorrow). \$200K increase for Stabilization, bringing balance to \$870K.

- Still going through contract negotiations.
- Major DPW Capital request for two large dump trucks. Use \$150K ARPA funds, \$150K from W/S retained earnings. \$80K – 90K ARPA fund remaining, to be used by 2/2024. Brief discussion on future staggered plans for equipment replacement. Some staggering already in place.
- Capital expense for COA kitchen renovation. Asking \$50K for FY2024. Currently have \$50K previous CPC grant; \$50K from State; \$13K Friends of COA. Total \$163K to get kitchen renovated. Possible multi-uses for Kitchen in future – Community Kitchen.
- School budget has 19.25% increase in transportation.
- Request for creating \$25K utility reserve fund. Utility rates have been volatile. This reserve fund would offset any unbudgeted increases for departments. Increasing budget line items for this possible increase could cost the town more, especially if these utility budgeted funds wind up being used for other expenses. Any unused reserve amount will revert to free cash.
- Requesting W/S Paving increase from \$30K to \$50K due to increase in materials. Does not mean this will all be spent. Compost area request reduction from \$50K to \$30K.

Touched on possible contentious articles in the Warrant.

- Short-term rentals (STR). Two articles, one from STR committee; one from Citizen petition.
- Feeding wildlife article – coyote related

Brief overview of each article. Some discussion.

FinCom will begin discussions on Warrant and start votes on articles as soon as possible.



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Public Forum: Joe Phillips found the proceedings to be informative. Jeff Lewis had a question on portion to taxpayer on \$1.2M debt shift. A. Nieto and A. Barletta stated it would be based on assessed value.

Motion by Tarmy to adjourn the meeting; second by McMackin; unanimously approved.
Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted and approved by Tarmy on February 28, 2023
Submitted to Clerk by Julie Tarmy on March 14, 2023.