



Town of Groveland MASSACHUSETTS

Board/Committee Name: Finance Board
Date: August 24, 2022
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Location: Town Hall – Conference Room
183 Main Street, Groveland, MA 01834

Present:

Board Members: Ruth Rivard, Sarah McGrath (left at 6:00), Melissa Baker, Jim Scanlon, Alexander Woods

Absent Members: Theresa Dunn, Meadow Stokes, Bill O’Neil

Other Attendees: Annie Schindler, Town Planner/Environmental Program Coordinator

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Finance Board was called to order at 5:40 p.m. on August 24, 2022 by Ruth.

Division of Local Services (“DLS”) Financial Management Review – Update

Ruth noted that she had met with Frank Gervasio, Sean Cronin and Zack Blake from the DLS to discuss the review they are performing. Some of the key areas that were discussed in the meeting included capital planning, utilization of debt, town meetings and where/how the Finance Board can be benefit. Ruth noted that it was expected the report would be available in the September/October timeframe.

Town Planner Update:

Annie gave the Finance Board some background on her role and involvement in various aspects of the town governance, which includes maintaining regular meetings with many departments in an effort to keep everyone on the same page. She also provided an update on some of the projects that she is helping with, including but not limited to:

- Massachusetts Office on Disability Grant: The town plans to apply by the September 30, 2022 deadline for a grant that will provide funds for the town offices to updated in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. In particular, the grant would allow for appropriate signage to be added, automatic door openers installed and door handles changed.

- Master Plan: This is the first master plan since the 1960s. The plan is focusing on three areas of town (Rt. 97 corridor, Elm Square and the Strawberry Fields/Washington Street/Veasey Park area). The master plan allows the residents to voice to what they want to see happen in town. A draft, based on the previous discussions held, will be available in September and will be sent to the Planning Board for public discussion.
- Rail Trail: The new rail trail will be opening in the fall. They are working on the final touches, which include kiosks and final coat of blacktop.
- Chapter 40B Affordable Housing: Because the new complex being built on Sewall is a rental property versus condominiums, all the units can be counted under the regulations. Based on the newly released 2020 census, the 190 units, along with the existing designated 40B properties, will put the town above the 10% requirement.
- MBTA Zoning: As reported to the Board of Selectmen, these changes are being monitored closely with the Building Inspector and Town Administrator as non-compliance with these regulations would significantly impact the town as it would not be able to provide for grants that have been heavily used in the past.

Other projects that Annie has been involved with include the sidewalk murals (currently in process), the new dog park (currently under construction) and the new sub-division at 106 King Street, which will be known as Katie Lane.

Department Budgets

As a follow-up to last month's meeting, Sarah had wondered whether there should be more communication with the departments during the year as opposed to just during the budget process. Ruth noted that one idea that came up was to invite them to give updates during the year. Jim noted that it would be an extremely time-consuming process considering the departmental budgets represent only 35% of the overall budget. He wondered whether it would be more appropriate to focus on the school budget, which is anticipated to continue seeking an override of the Proposition 2½ limit. No decisions were made at the current time.

New Website – Finance Board Page

Ruth noted that there were some concerns regarding the website as a lot of the documents, such as agendas and meeting minutes, that were linked to the Finance Board on the old website did not carry over to the new website, which makes it difficult to look back. She noted she would have a conversation with the Town Clerk to see if those files could be added to the new website.

Minutes

Ruth noted that she had provided minor comments on the minutes from the June 8, 2022 meeting. No further comments were noted. Jim made a motion, which Ruth seconded, to approve the revised minutes. The minutes of the meeting held on June 8, 2022 were approved unanimously.

Other Items Not Reasonably Anticipated at Time of Posting:

Ruth noted that the Board of Selectmen had approved the appointment of Bill O'Neil as an alternate member of the Finance Board.

Plan Next Meeting and Agenda:

The next regular meeting will be held on September 21, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ruth, seconded by Alex, and approved unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. by Ruth.

Minutes prepared by: *Melissa Baker*

Minutes approved on: September 21, 2022

Meeting Materials:

1. Draft June 8, 2022 Meeting Minutes