



Town of Groveland MASSACHUSETTS

Board/Committee Name: Finance Board
Date: May 4, 2022
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Location: Town Hall – Main Meeting Room
183 Main Street, Groveland, MA 01834

Present:

Board Members: Ruth Rivard, James Scanlon, Melissa Baker, Theresa Dunn, Sarah McGrath and Susan Yaskell

Absent Members: None

Other Attendees: Rebecca Oldham, Town Administrator, Kathleen Kastrinelis, Board of Selectmen

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Finance Board was called to order at 5:03 p.m. on May 4, 2022 by Ruth.

Omnibus Review:

Ruth noted that the request for an override for the Pentucket Regional School District ('PRSD') budget failed at the polls in both Groveland and Merrimac. As such, the previously approved town department budgets would need to be reviewed.

Rebecca noted that she has had several discussions with the PRSD administration indicating the town would be willing to put forth a 3% increase for the PRSD assessment, which is consistent with what the town has generally allocated each year. This increase, however, would require cuts to all departments, no stipends and limit raises to a 2% cost-of-living adjustment. Ruth noted that one of the main reasons the cuts are required is because last year we received a 5.24% or \$501,612 increase after the retraction of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund monies, which had been used to lower the initial assessment for the current year before it was pulled back and funded via the Stabilization Fund. Our budget is trying to absorb this large increase from last year. After a brief discussion, Melissa made a motion, which was seconded by Jim, to approve the Total Education line item in the budget in the amount of \$13,552,405.

Rebecca noted that she had prepared a worksheet with proposed changes to the omnibus budget based on the 3% increase for the PRSD assessment. Each of the sections in the worksheet was reviewed and discussed. A summary of changes is as follows:

Budget	Change
Moderator	A decrease in the Total Moderator Budget of \$100
Selectmen	A decrease in the Total Selectmen Budget of \$17,500
Town Administrator	A decrease in the Total Town Administrator Budget of \$500
Treasurer	A decrease in the Total Treasurer Budget of \$4,700
Town Accountant	A decrease in the Total Town Accountant Budget of \$500
Board of Assessors	A decrease in the Total Board of Assessors Budget of \$2,000
Technology	A decrease in the Total Technology Budget of \$5,000
Town Clerk	A decrease in the Total Town Clerk Budget of \$432
Economic Development, Planning & Conservation	A decrease in the Total Economic Development, Planning & Conservation Budget of \$15,138
Municipal Buildings	A decrease in the Total Municipal Buildings Budget of \$935.70
Insurance	A decrease in the Total Insurance Budget of \$200
Police	A decrease in the Total Police Budget of \$703
Fire	A decrease in the Total Fire Budget of \$1,000
Building	A decrease in the Total Inspectors Budget of \$7,414.44
Emergency Management	A decrease in the Total Emergency Management Budget of \$85
Tree Warden	A decrease in the Total Tree Warden Budget of \$20,000
Highway	A decrease in the Total Highway Budget of \$435
Rubbish Collection	A decrease in the Total Rubbish Collection Budget of \$17,119.05
Cemetery	A decrease in the Total Cemetery Budget of \$2,880.80
Board of Health	A decrease in the Total Board of Health Budget of \$1,897.76
Council on Aging	A decrease in the Total Council on Aging Budget of \$368.48
Library	A decrease in the Total Library Budget of \$6,038.14
Unclassified	A decrease in the Total Unclassified Budget of \$200

Ruth made the motion, which was seconded by Jim, to adjust the omnibus budget as noted in the spreadsheet prepared by Rebecca and summarized above, which results in a total decrease of \$105,147.37. The changes were approved unanimously.

Review Annual Town Meeting Warrant:

Rebecca reviewed the current draft of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant noting the Conservation Revolving Fund Limit required the vote of the Finance Board. Ruth made a motion, which Sarah seconded, to approve the limit. The limit was approved unanimously.

Review Meeting Minutes:

Ruth noted that there was a clerical error on the agenda as the March 16, 2022 meeting minutes were previously approved. She also noted that the meeting minutes for the April 13, 2022 were not available yet.

Melissa noted, however, that the meeting minutes for the April 6, 2022 meeting had been distributed for review and approval. There were no questions or comments noted. Ruth made a motion, which Sarah seconded, to approve the minutes. The minutes of the meeting held on April 6, 2022 were approved unanimously.

Plan Next Meeting and Agenda:

A special meeting will be held on May 23, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in advance of the Annual Town Meeting.

Other Items Not Reasonably Anticipated at Time of Posting:

No items were noted.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sarah, seconded by Ruth, and approved unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 6:04 p.m. by Ruth.

Minutes prepared by: *Melissa Baker*

Minutes approved on: June 8, 2022

Meeting Materials:

1. Revised Budget Worksheet
2. Draft of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant
3. Draft of the April 6, 2022 Meeting Minutes