



Town of Harvard
Finance Committee
Minutes for December 05, 2023

The Finance Committee Regular Meeting was held virtually in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L.c.30A. S.20.

Meeting called to order at 2:00pm

FinCom Members Present: Eric Ward, Mike Derse, Noyan Kinayman, Vikram Sampige, Hady Lattouf, Bob Thurston, Jennifer Finch
FinCom Members Not Present: NA

Others Present: Jared Mullane (Finance Director), Tim Bragan (Town Administrator), Marie Sobolvaro (Asst Town Administrator), Anne McWaters (Parks & Recreation Director)

1. Benefits Budget Q&A

Marie responded to questions from the committee and provided a summary of the benefits budget including between different benefits categories and distribution of funds.

There was discussion about the importance of continuing to fund OPEB at an appropriate level and how that impacts the town credit standing.

2. Parks & Recreation Budget Q&A

Anne responded to questions from the committee and provided feedback on key elements. Most discussion centered on the request to hire a Beach Director and why that is important for supporting P&R's objectives. Additional discussion time was spent on the level of fees charged for access and services at the beach.

3. Grant Writer Discussion

Tim provided background on the intent of the grant writer position that has been proposed, including clarification on what town functions this position would support.

Many questions centered on the expected return the town could expect from the investment in this resource.

4. Budget Roll-up

Jared Provided an updated budget roll-up that included an new budget value from the schools that reflects the final budget submission.

Tim provided some context on the state budget process and recent updates that may influence our outlook for state funding.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:15pm

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Ward