

Town of Marlborough

Board of Finance Members

Michael Nastri, Chairman
Karen Pakulis Paul, Vice Chairman
Jeffrey Plourde, Secretary
John (Jack) H Fidler
Will Guzman



Board of Finance Alternate Members

Christopher Barella
Sal Senna
Baird Welch-Collins

Board of Finance Regular Meeting Minutes Thursday, March 21, 2024 7:00 PM

Marlborough Elementary School Media Center and Zoom

All minutes are considered 'DRAFT MINUTES' until approved at the next meeting.

1. Call to Order, Alternate Appointment

Present at the meeting were Michael Nastri, Karen Pakulis Paul, Jeffrey Plourde, Jack Fidler, Will Guzman, Baird Welch-Collins and Christopher Barella.

Michael Nastri called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Additions to Agenda

Exit Poll – Discussion point for item f. under New Business

4. New Business

a. Final Budget Proposal due from RHAM BOE

Updated budget from RHAM, from 3/18/24 meeting.
Increased revenue, slight adjustments to Capital. The reductions in net capital result in Marlborough's portion being reduced by \$60,953.

New total: \$11,326,865, 0.62% increase.

Will drop proposed mill rate increase to 3.10, 8.92% increase in tax levy.

b. All Final Budget Proposals: Discussions/Actions

David Porter, Town Manager: Last three years have resulted in small tax decreases. This year's proposed budget will result in a net increase of approximately 5.5%. Respective to price increases in recent years, 5.5% increase is looked at as reasonable.

c. Discussion - review Special Meetings/Budget Workshops; Public Hearing preparation

Calendar: Meeting Wednesday, March 27, 2024 for the undesignated funds balance and the mill rate impact as points of discussion.

Plan to motion and approve the numbers.

April 4, 2024: Meeting is scheduled.

April 8, 2024: Publish notice, followed by the Public Hearing.

Public Hearing: presentation to public, opportunity for people to speak.

d. Town Manager's proposition for tri-board workshop

David Porter's proposal to reading the book, gather boards together and work to improve communication and collaboration. The BOF voiced interest and will make an effort to read and attend the workshop, time dependent. Timeline for retreat: Finish this FY's budget, then David's book club shortly after. Meeting of all three boards, retreat – discuss budget process. There will be no voting, just discussions.

e. Public Works – Reserve Transfer of \$63,000 for Crack Sealer Unit, 72” Scag Mower, Pavement Infra-Red Unit

Transfer request – Public works to purchase equipment out of their reserve.

Karen Pakulis Paul made motion to approve the transfer of the \$63,000 for the Public works to purchase equipment. Jeffrey Plourde seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

f. Exit Poll Questions– questions for voting

Karri Barella provided example questions from the Board of Ed for a possible exit poll upon voting on budget.

Question(s) would appear on backside of voting ballot.

Discussion of cost/benefit to questions or having public comment steer the direction of Public Hearing and Town Meeting.

Option to send out a Flash Vote if the budget is voted down and feedback was not provided for guidance at the meetings as an alternative option. This would provide a survey after the fact and listening to the town meeting presentation feedback.

David Porter and Holly Hageman are drafting a joint letter to put in the River East. The BOF was asked to review and contribute/co-sign the letter. Review of letter to be added to the March 27th meeting agenda.

5. Reports

a. Financial Reports

The BOF members asked two definition questions from the financial reports:

1. New Volume (general fund): Town Clerk. Purchase of new minute books.
2. Communication Right to Use – Emergency Communications Pole.

Equipment maintenance and vehicle maintenance – Town Garage, significant repairs to several trucks. Trucks are aging and needed repairs.

Protective gear for the Fire Dept.: have been ordered.

b. Liaison Reports (RHAM BOE, Local BOE)

RHAM:

Met on March 18, 2024, reductions in the budget.

The facilities subgroup is looking to move funds to do improvements on two fields. Unallocated CNR transfer for improvements on the competition field and 316 North field. First project – curtain/perimeter drain. Secondly, redo track over. 316 North field – uneven turf and ground they're looking to fix.

Local BOE:

Meeting next week.

6. Approval of Minutes

- a. February 15, 2024 Regular Meeting**
- b. February 21, 2024 Special Meeting – Budget Workshop**
- c. February 28, 2024 Special Meeting – Budget Workshop**
- d. February 29, 2024 Special Meeting – Budget Workshop**
- e. March 7, 2024 Special Meeting – Budget Workshop**
- f. March 14, 2024 Special Meeting – Budget Workshop**

Jeffrey Plourde motioned to approve all meeting minutes listed above. Michael Nastri seconded.

Board members comment on March 14th meeting minutes: The opening public comments only had names and no remarks made. This will be revisited with more information included.

March 14: Page 3, Motion passed with “majority in favor”, – Revise to “All in favor. Motion carried.”

March 7: The decision to present the following requested reductions to the RHAM, BOE (MES) and the Town budgets: “The decision to present the following requested reductions via unanimous consent to the RHAM, BOE (MES) and the Town budgets.”

David Porter: Typo in David’s public comment: “parody” changed to “parity”.

Michael Nastri requested a vote for the motion as amended minutes.

Jeffrey Plourde made a motion to amend the prior motion to include the comments and not vote on March 14th, 2024 minutes until further review.

Jack Filder seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

7. Public Comment

Kerri Barella

Stated for the record at the March 14th meeting, Deb Bordeau and Karen Pakulis Paul who were hesitant about the joint statement, that it was discussed at last week’s meeting. Statement that will be put out from the three boards will be done collaboratively to include each respective board’s piece to put out to the town in support of the budget created. The BOE has a standing Communications Committee. The Communications personnel have been working on the statement. This shows good practice and is necessary. The mill rate increase should be put forward with all boards working together. Draft will come to the Board next Thursday at BOE meeting. Dr. Hageman will then approve and have submitted so it can go out in the River East for the April 5th issue.

8. Adjournment

Michael Nastri motioned to adjourn. Karen Pakulis Paul seconded. All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:24PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathryn Overturf Nohelty
Board Clerk