

JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE AND SELECTBOARD
MEETING MINUTES
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 2021

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The meeting was opened at 6:01 PM by remote participation via Zoom.

- **Finance Committee members:** Jen Audley, Greg Garrison, Fred Bowman, Chris Menegoni, Jennifer Waryas, and Francia Wisnewski.
- **Absent:** John Hanold
- **Montague Selectboard members:** Rich Kuklewicz, Michael Nelson, and Chris Boutwell
- **Absent:** none
- **Others:** Town Administrator Steve Ellis, Town Accountant Carolyn Olsen, Police Chief Chris Williams, GMRSD Superintendent Brian Beck, GMRSD Director of Pupil Services Dianne Ellis, FCTS Superintendent Richard Martin, Ariel Shira, and Kat Allen from the Communities that Care Coalition

The Chair announced that the meeting is being streamed and recorded by the MCTV and asked if anyone else was recording the meeting. Ms. Olsen is also recording the meeting. Remote participation for both members and the public was provided by Zoom. The link to the recording is <https://vimeo.com/542939873>.

Remaining Articles on ATM Warrant: Finance Action

Appropriations from Cannabis Impact Fee Stabilization Fund

From the Cannabis Control Commission website: What is Permissible as Part of a Community Impact Fee? Some anticipated costs that may reasonably be included in a fee of up to 3% of gross annual sales include services such as:

- Municipal inspection costs;
- Traffic intersection design studies where additional heavy traffic is anticipated because of the location of a retail or social consumption establishment;
- Public safety personnel overtime costs during times where higher congestion or crowds are anticipated;
- Environmental impact or stormwater or wastewater studies anticipated as the result of cultivation; or
- Additional substance abuse prevention programming during the first years of operation.

The aforementioned list is illustrative, not exhaustive or exclusive.

Discussion was had on the uses and allotment of funds from the Cannabis Impact Fee Stabilization fund (CISF). Disclosures were made by Jen Audley, Steve Ellis and Rich Kuklewicz on their relationships to the school districts and the Communities That Care Coalition. No conflict of interest was found or expressed.

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Mr. Ellis outlined how CISF funds are generated, how they can be used and the conditions for the funds going forward. He discussed the options of spending all the funds in the year they are generated vs. accumulating the funds. Discussion was had on the pro and cons of each option. There was discussion by board members on the possible use of the funds.

The proposed usage of the funds within the GMRSD will be primarily focused on splitting the cost between schools on a full-time drug and alcohol counselor who will be employed as a consultant. Finance Committee members expressed their support and caution for funding this position. The main concern is that future funding could not be guaranteed and that the position be considered on a year to year basis. Ms. Wisnewski expressed her desire to see focused outreach to underserved families and to have a multi-lingual component to any information that was distributed through the school's student handbooks or information going directly to the families. Ms Wisnewski also expressed concern about policies in the GMRSD secondary schools' family handbook related to substance use, which Superintendent Beck indicated would be addressed.

Chief Williams outlined the police department's proposed use of the funds. The primary focus will be on training for the police force personnel in recognizing cannabis intoxication.

Selectboard Moved: To recommend the appropriation of \$120,050 for impacts associated with the establishment and operation of 253 Farmacy, to be funded from the Cannabis Impact Fee Stabilization Fund.

Vote: Boutwell – aye, Kuklewicz – aye, Nelson – aye

Finance Committee Moved: To recommend the appropriation of \$120,050 for impacts associated with the establishment and operation of 253 Farmacy, to be funded from the Cannabis Impact Fee Stabilization Fund.

Vote: Audley – aye, Bowman – aye, Garrison – aye, Menegoni – aye, Waryas – aye,
Wisnewski - aye

Mosquito Control District

The Selectboard has voted to opt out of the state's mosquito control program, which includes an aerial spraying program. As a result, the Town is required to come up with its own approved mosquito control program, which might involve joining a regional mosquito control district. Montague is currently considering joining the Pioneer Valley Regional Mosquito Control District (PVMCD). There is a \$5,000 annual membership fee, and other services will be available at as-yet-to-be-determined costs.

There are two warrant articles regarding this issue. The first is to authorize the Selectboard to approve the Town's joining the PVMQD, and the other to appropriate \$10,000 for mosquito

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control, which could include the cost of joining the PVMQD. There were no votes taken on this proposal due to the lack of specificity in language and information regarding services the PVMQD will offer. However, there seemed to be unanimous consensus that the Town of Montague should not allow aerial spraying in our community.

5th St Pedestrian Bridge Easement

This article is required because Mass DOT required a slight change in the location of the bridge, which requires new easements.

Selectboard Moved: To recommend the appropriation of \$700 for easements for the 5th Street Pedestrian Bridge.

Vote: Boutwell – aye, Kuklewicz – aye, Nelson – aye

Finance Committee Moved: To recommend the appropriation of \$700 for easements for the 5th Street Pedestrian Bridge.

Vote: Audley – aye, Bowman – aye, Garrison – aye, Hanold – aye, Menegoni – aye, Waryas – aye, Wisnewski - aye

Planning for Annual Town Meeting

The Finance Committee reviewed the final Finance Committee Report to Town Meeting to be presented to Town Meeting. Members approved the final draft.

Ms. Audley led a discussion on scheduling a Pre-Town Meeting informational meeting for Town Meeting members and the public. The purpose was to answer questions on the budget prior to Town Meeting. Ms. Audley and Mr. Kuklewicz agreed that it should be considered and that they would confer on a possible date for the meeting and announce it at the Selectboard Meeting on May 3.

Ms Wisnewski left the meeting at 7:35pm

Topics not anticipated in last 48 hours

No news was shared.

Agendas for Future Meetings

May 12 –Pre-Town Meeting

May 19 – determine Finance Committee speakers for various articles

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Adjournment

Finance Committee Moved: To adjourn at 7:51 PM.

Vote: Audley – aye, Bowman – aye, Garrison – aye, Menegoni – aye, Waryas – aye

Selectboard Moved: To adjourn 7:51 PM

Vote: Boutwell – aye, Kuklewicz – aye, Nelson – aye

Respectfully submitted by Gregory Garrison

List of Documents and Exhibits: