

MONTAGUE FINANCE COMMITTEE
Final Minutes
Wednesday, December 7, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

This meeting was held via Zoom and recorded

PRESENT: Chair Francia Wisnewski, Vice-Chair Greg Garrison, Clerk Dorinda Bell-Upp, Chris Menegoni, John Hanold and Fred Bowman, members; Accountant Carolyn Olsen; Highway Superintendent Tom Bergeron; Assistant Town Administrator Walter Ramsey; Ariel Elan, resident and Scribe BettyLou Mallet.

ABSENT: Jennifer Waryas

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Francia Wisnewski at 6:00 p.m. Roll call with a quorum present. The meeting is being recorded by Carolyn Olsen.

2. RESERVE FUND TRANSFER REQUEST - \$40,000 to replace both town hall boilers requested by DPW.

Tom Bergeron spoke to the committee and explained that the boilers that failed are 12 years old and were installed by Siemens when the Town of Montague enrolled in a program with upgrades. These boilers are from Germany and built in the USA and were appropriated under advisement. Jamrog is the HVAC contractor and maintains the boilers regularly. Now that these boilers have failed completely and are obsolete, there is a need to replace them with other natural gas boilers that are readily available.

CO added that this is a request as a reserve fund transfer as the Town Hall has lost heat for 3 days already. The Town is being active in this situation rather than be reactive. JH asked if the system is a 1:1 replacement where the system will function the same. Tom stated yes just like the older system, these boilers will communicate to each other although they are a smaller BTU but works at 95% efficiency rate.

GG stated the CIC met this afternoon regarding the boilers and feel the replacement is more than adequate and can easily be repaired and the parts are readily available. He asks about the 20-year agreement with ESCO funding and what obligations are there to complete the agreement. Walter will review the contract and follow-up with GG. JH also asked if the Town is tied to using natural gas rather in the future. Walter said yes for now given the emergent circumstances however a few years down the road, there may be the opportunity to develop a ground source heat pump renewable source. Walter stated there is a study at this time for the Town Hall Annex and has increased the HVAC needs which may cause for an easier transition in the future. Current boilers have a 10 year warranty.

The cost to replace the boilers is \$35,000 along with a new vent system in the building. Walter stated Jason Burbank reviewed the replacement plan and is comfortable with what is being proposed. The bidding through State Contract list resulted in 3 bids with the lowest being Jamrog at \$34,850.

On a motion by CM and second by DB-U, the Finance Committee approves the request for transfer in the amount of \$40,000 to be transferred from the Reserve Funds to account number 001-5-

420-5800-192 DPW-Buildings Capital Outlay. All in favor. FB, aye; DB-U, aye; JH, aye; GG, aye; CM, aye; FW, aye.

3. TOPICS NOT ANTICIPATED WITHIN 48 HOURS OF POSTING – None

The next meeting date is Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

4. ADJOURNMENT – On a motion by FB and second by JH, the meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m. FB, aye; DB-U, aye; JH, aye; GG, aye; CM, aye; FW, aye.

Respectfully submitted,
BettyLou Mallet
Scribe

Finance Committee approved: December 14, 2022