

**MONTAGUE FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**Wednesday, March 27, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.**  
**This meeting was held via Zoom and recorded:**  
<https://vimeo.com/928207966>

Finance Committee Chair Francia Wisnewski called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**Finance Committee members present:** Chair Francia Wisnewski. Vice Chair Dorinda Bell-Upp, Clerk Fred Bowman and members Greg Garrison, John Hanold, and Chris Menegoni

**Finance Committee members absent:** Jennifer Waryas

**Others present:** Town Accountant Carolyn Olsen

The meeting was recorded by MCTV as well as by Carolyn Olsen.

**Meeting minutes:**

Mr. Hanold moved to approve the minutes of March 20, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Bowman and approved.

Bell-Upp – Aye, Bowman- Aye, Garrison – Aye, Hanold – Aye, Menegoni – Aye, Wisnewski - Aye

**Updates from Town Administrator**

Ms. Olsen provided the following information from Mr. Ellis:

- The Selectboard voted to approve the draft warrant and made their recommendation on the remaining articles.
- The updated capital plan is in the final phase and will be available prior to the town meeting.
- There will be a pre-town meeting from 8:00-8:45 AM immediately prior to the annual town meeting.

**Finance Committee Report to Town Meeting**

Members were sent the original draft as well as an updated draft. Ms. Olsen updated what she could based on last year's report. Suggestions for corrections and improvements:

1. Ms. Wisnewski asked that the glossary and CWF Superintendent Little's handout on enterprise funds be included in the packet to town meeting members.
2. Adding information on valuation increases and their impact on tax bills.
3. Adding something about how the committee responded to requests from individuals to reduce the tax burden.
4. Adding something about the future financial challenges of capital improvements needed by the Airport and Clean Water Facility that may require additional borrowing.
5. Showing appreciation to the Capital Improvements Committee for their improved reports and work on the five-year plan, including replacement of vehicles and equipment.
6. Adding reference to the financial policies
7. Adding more information on funding the airport and working to find new revenues.
8. Adding the discussion of whether to borrow for the eligible capital request versus using Town Capital Stabilization Fund.

Members should provide any specific wording, and where it needs to go, to Ms. Olsen by Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup> so she can send a revised report for review and acceptance at the April 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

**The Association of Town Finance Committees Spring Conference April 6<sup>th</sup> 9AM-1PM in Oxford.**

Ms. Wisnewski will be attending and encourages other members to register.

**Topics not anticipated within 48 hours of posting:**

- Mr. Hanold recommended that the committee look closely at the Affordable Assessment calculation after the start of FY2025 to review what it does and whether we are wording it correctly. The passage of over a decade has changed the Town's financial resources and the challenges faced by its operations.
- Mr. Bowman added that we need to push legislators to change the education funding formula.
- Ms. Wisnewski asked if anyone whose term is expiring in June, other than Mr. Garrison who has already given notice that he will not request reappointment, will not be seeking reappointment. Mr. Bowman and Mr. Menegoni both plan to request reappointment.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Bowman makes the motion to adjourn at 6:39 PM. Seconded by Mr. Hanold and approved.

Bell-Upp – Aye, Bowman- Aye, Garrison – Aye, Hanold – Aye, Menegoni – Aye, Wisnewski - Aye

Respectfully submitted,  
Carolyn Olsen

**Next Meeting** – April 3, 2024 – Finance Committee Report to Town Meeting

**Documents and exhibits:**

Minutes of March 20, 2024