



TOWN OF MENDON

Finance Committee

fincomm@mendonma.gov

MEETING MINUTES

Michael Krager, Chairman
Nicholas Ciantra, Vice Chairman
Billy Haddad, Clerk
Mike Ammendolia
Jesse Curll
John Hodgens
Ron Zammuto

Meeting Date: Wednesday, October 30, 2024
Time Called to Order: 6:33 PM
Time Adjourned: 9:04 PM
Location: Town Hall - Main Meeting Room
Meeting Chair: Michael Krager
Recorder: Billy Haddad

Member:	Present ¹	Remote ²	Member	Present	Remote
Michael Krager	☒	☐	John Hodgens	☒	☐
Nicholas Ciantra	☐	☒	Jesse Curll	☒	☐
Mike Ammendolia	☐	☐	Billy Haddad	☐	☒
Ron Zammuto	☐	☒		☐	☐

Topic Name	Finance Committee Attended the Select Board Meeting
Summary:	Board of Health Budget Presentation The presentation by the Board of Health emphasized a review of year-to-year salary adjustments and the restructuring of waste management funding. In detail, the department has implemented modest cost-of-living increases among staff, with particular attention given to testing and waste collection services. A significant aspect of the discussion involved segregating municipal trash disposal costs from subscriber trash collection expenses. This separation, which shifts subscriber costs into an enterprise fund, is designed to ensure that only those using the service contribute directly, while municipal fees remain a responsibility of all taxpayers. Additionally, the presentation covered the challenges and evolving needs of water quality testing, exploring whether bundling public and private well testing might yield economies of scale. ○ Compared fiscal year (FY) 25 to FY 26, the main change noted was an overall increase in salaries and wages. ○ A standard cost-of-living increase of approximately 3% was applied, although some specific adjustments varied. For example, testing services in certain areas increased by around 2% while others—such as in waste collection—saw adjustments up to 4%. School District Budget Presentation The school district's budget presentation focused heavily on capital projects and state-mandated funding adjustments. A major project highlighted was the roof

¹ If "Present" contains an "x" that person was physically present.

² If "Remote" contains an "x" that person participated remotely according to 940 CMR 29.10(5) a through e as approved by the Meeting Chair.

	repair, which necessitates additional borrowing while leveraging state reimbursement rates—historically around 53%—as a guideline for negotiations. The discussion underscored that a large portion of the incremental funding request (approximately 82%) is driven by the state-mandated “absolute minimum” local contribution. The Select Board recommended separating the overall capital proposal into two distinct articles, one for field or recreational facility improvements and one for core building or infrastructure upgrades—to enhance transparency and provide voters with a clearer understanding of priorities. ○ The presentation highlighted a significant capital project—a roof replacement—estimated to require an additional approximately \$1,132,000. ○ Using reserve funds—up to \$700,000—from previous years to help offset capital expenses. <u>Police Department Budget Presentation</u> In discussing the police department’s budget, the presentation detailed salary increases, overtime costs, and staffing adjustments. Salaries saw an approximate 7% increase to address contractual obligations and rising operational costs. The discussion analyzed overtime expenses, especially in relation to covering extended leave—and emphasized the need for additional staffing in light of increased call volumes and upcoming retirements. Moreover, the department outlined plans to upgrade its communication systems, including a review of options between leasing versus purchasing new radio and repeater equipment to modernize emergency coordination. ○ Last year’s overtime figures, with an increase of around \$6,000 in certain areas. This adjustment was necessary to cover additional work when personnel took leave or when extra coverage was required. ○ Current staffing levels had not changed significantly since before the financial crisis, and with rising call volumes, there was a clear need for additional officer positions. ○ The presentation noted that many of the department’s expenses are determined by long-term contracts.
Decisions Made:	None
Actions to be Taken:	Attend future budget meetings
Related Documents:	