

**Fincom Minutes**  
**Virtual meeting with Selectboard**  
**5 April, 2022**  
**(excerpted from SB Minutes of 5 April, 2022)**

6:31 p.m. Finance Committee members Tom Lively, Alice Wozniak, Ned Wolf, Will Emmet and Bob McGahan joined the meeting. Tom called their meeting to order.

MTRSD FY22 Assessment Error: A letter to the school district superintendent and school committee chairperson has been drafted but is not finished. Robyn stated that she has more questions that she wants to add to it before sending. Last Thursday at their meeting the Finance Committee voted by majority to not move forward with a repayment plan until questions were answered and more information was known about how the error occurred. Alice stated that she hopes for school committee support in getting the proper documentation.

Brian De Vriese joined the meeting.

FY23 Town Operating Budget: Both the Select Board and the Finance Committee agreed to remove Special Projects and Landfill Expense accounts from Article 3 and present them in separate articles.

COLA: The Finance Committee had voted by majority vote to agree with the six percent COLA increase for employees.

Senior Program Coordinator: There was no resolution about how to fund this position.

Preschool Support: It was agreed that the Town would stop funding preschool tuition.

Maintenance Accounts for Town Buildings and highway fuel: The question was raised as to whether these accounts should be increased due to the increased prices of fuel. Hilma will check on the expected date of the bid opening for gas and diesel.

Special Projects: There was discussion about whether to appropriate funds designated for a new salt shed and/or planning for construction of a new highway garage or public safety facility for fire and police departments. To rebuild a new salt shed in the existing location would present additional challenges that building on a new site would not have. In the near future the Town also needs to find a site for storage of road materials. Brian will talk with Rep. Paul Mark about the emergency situation that Heath is facing with its highway and emergency facilities. Alice remarked that, because of the nature of the Town's situation, it will be important that Fire, Police and EOC reach out to the legislative representatives. There are letters in hand from the Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director.

Operations Project Manager (OPM): There was discussion about the need to have an OPM to work a few hours per month on this project to evaluate both sites, develop the new site, and draw together 3 plans and cost estimates for each site. Bernardston is paying approximately \$80,000 for an OPM although their project involves much more extensive construction. Brian will work on estimating a consultant fee for Heath's work.

April 21: It was agreed that this day would be held tentatively for a combined meeting.

8:33 p.m. Finance Committee adjourned their meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

William T. Emmet