

Town of Lunenburg

Finance Committee:

Terri Burchfield, Chairman
Michelle Walton, Vice-Chairman
Peter Beardmore, Secretary
John Henshaw
Jay Simeone
David Passios



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Lunenburg Finance Committee January 23, 2020 Meeting (Approved March 12)

Location: Town Hall
Present: Terri Burchfield, John Henshaw, Dave Passios, Peter Beardmore, Michelle Walton, Jay Simeone
Absent:

1. Call to Order

- Terri Burchfield, Chair called the meeting to order at 7PM (members Dave Passios and Jay Simeone arrived late).

2. Communications

- **Public Comment** – Terri Burchfield noted the vacancy on the committee and invited members of the public to submit talent bank forms.

3. 5-year Financial Forecast

- The Town Manager, with collaboration and supporting documentation from the Superintendent of Schools. Topics discussed included all topics outlined in the PowerPoint presentation linked here:
<https://www.lunenburgma.gov/files-docs/20-01-26/fy2021-fy2025-financial-forecast-presentation>
There was extended discussion about the significant increases in the school department five year forecast when compared to current projections of available funds. The Superintendent described the process and methodology of their strategic and needs-based development of the forecast
- Resident Carl Luck asked several questions for clarification relating to the difference in “base planning” and “5-year staffing plan”. He also requested access to the underlying excel spreadsheets containing the forecast data.

He also expressed concern about the exclusion of debt projections in the financial forecast and suggested the town run several debt scenarios to consider.

- Dave Passios requested that the finance committee formally review the debt policy.

4. Capital Plan

- The Town Manager also presented the capital plan for FY2021 linked here: <https://www.lunenburgma.gov/files-docs/20-01-26/fy-2021-capital-plan-presentation>
- Dave Passios sought to clarify what additional asbestos remediation would be required in advance of a renovation of Turkey Hill. The Town Manager will inquire.
- Peter Beardmore asked for a comparison of police vehicles vs. previous purchases.
- Dave Passios commented that the cemetery parking lot is the first step to making North Cemetery accessible in the winter.
- Peter Beardmore expressed reservations about additional spending on The Ritter Building, absent of clarity on future use of the building.

5. Committee Reports

- Dave Passios reported the TCP Committee will be interviewing design firms on Jan 29th.

6. Minutes

- December 12 – Dave Passios moved to approve, Jon Henshaw 2nd, unanimous approval

7. Public Comment - none

8. Next meeting

- **February 13** – Town Manager budget presentation
- **January 20** – Department presentations begin
- Warrant is open, closes on March 16th

9. Adjournment

- John Henshaw motioned/ Dave Passios seconded; unanimous approval