

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 April 9, 2020 Meeting

Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting
Present: Terri Burchfield, Dave Passios, Michelle Walton, Peter Beardmore, John Henshaw
Absent: Jay Simeone

1. Call to Order

- Terri Burchfield, Chair called the meeting to order at 7 PM. And read the COVID-19 / Zoom meeting advisory statement.
This meeting was recorded and is viewable on YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RkcqswbV2Jo>

2. Public Comment

- Peter Beardmore recommended a finance committee discussion regarding the upcoming Selectmen's vote on delaying the property tax deadline.

3. Review of Updated Town Manager Budget

- The Town Manager reviewed recommended adjustments to the town budget, outlined in the linked dashboard worksheet.
https://1drv.ms/b/s!Ah6AdYK_60697nND4kXS9RNnd3q0?e=Lwdxch
- Included were a reduction in new growth from \$193,400 to \$130,000 reflecting new guidance from the regional assessor.
- State aide was reduced to level-funded. There is no information from the state (211,836 reduction).
- Local receipts were reduced to level-funded, (\$68,454.26 reduction).
- Town manager is recommending elimination of expenses including new positions and adjusting \$55,000 in allowance for abatements.

- These total changes reflect a deficit of approximately \$30,000, which still does not include reductions to school budget or capital plan.
- A meeting of the capital planning committee is forthcoming.

4. Review of Draft Warrant for Annual Town Meeting

- The town manager reviewed the draft warrant for the annual town meeting:
https://1drv.ms/b/s!Ah6AdYK_60697nQcaUCy6sPjsU_x?e=91FJFY

5. Town Manager / Finance Director Report

- The Town Finance Director reported that she has conducted a cash flow analysis with the Treasury's office and believes that the extension of the real estate tax deadline will not adversely effect the town's finances.
- Peter Beardmore expressed reservations with respect to extending the deadline because financial impacts are uncalculated and the benefits of the extension cannot realized equitably by all residents.

6. Public Comment

- Resident Carl Luck requested additional information with respect to discount rates associated with OPEB, and whether the town has achieved a level of contribution that we are benefiting from those discounts.

7. Committee Reports

- Peter Beardmore reported that the School Committee has met twice since the last FinCom meeting and that the School Finance Director announced that the school department is entering into discussions with Dee Bus to negotiate a financial agreement associated with services not delivered during the school closure.
- Dave Passios reported that he has had some contact with Rep Haye and Sen Tran, but there hasn't been progress in scheduling a meeting, either directly with the finance committee or in conjunction with the Board of Selectmen. He will follow-up with the Town Manager.

8. Adjournment

- Dave Passios motion, Peter Beardmore 2nd, Unanimously approved, 8:40 PM