

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Peru Community Center

3 East Main Rd. Peru MA

Thursday, February 9, 2023 @ 6:00 PM

- Finance Committee Members Present: Jesse Pelkey, Darryll Darby, Sam Haupt, Paul Hickling, Doug Haskins
- Other Attendees: Bruce Cullett, Chief of Police, K. Wetherell, Verne Leach
- Call to Order
  - Meeting opened at 6pm with all members present.
  - An audio recording of the meeting was made by an attendee.
- Pledge of Alliance to the Flag
- Meeting minutes from November 30, 2022 were reviewed and approved
- Discussed FY2024 budget
  - Budget requests anticipated in late February 2023
  - School budget likely to go up to 8.24%
  - Bruce Cullett, Chief of Police, requested to purchase a new cruiser with the use of ARPA funds
    - Selection was 2022 Explorer PIU. It will replace the 2012 Ford Expedition.
    - Finance Committee voted to approve purchase with ARPA funds
  - Highway Department
    - Discussion of replacing plow—getting quotes—estimated cost of \$10-12k and replacing tracks in mini-excavator—estimated cost of \$6-8k
  - Fire Department Budget
    - Jesse Pelkey, Fire Chief, listed some of his requests for FY2024
    - Discussed status of rescue vehicle (1995 ambulance that is dumping antifreeze into engine oil). Request of quad cap 3500-4500 4 x 4 chassis with an enclosed utility body—estimated cost is \$150,000
    - Discussed need to upgrade radios (800 MHz)—significant upgrade cost
    - Fire Engine repair— concern about brakes and continued use until repair
    - Stipends for volunteer fire fighters were discussed—complication explored was that volunteers are not town employees
    - Fire Chief salary increase reviewed—suggested this request be evaluated and resubmitted for consideration
    - Other misc items reviewed
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:52pm

Meeting minutes submitted by Chairperson Paul Hickling and approved by the Finance Committee on 3/1/2023

