

Town Of Harwich  
Finance Committee Meeting  
Griffin Room -Town Hall  
Thursday March 3, 2022

**Members Present:** Jon Chorey, Mark Ameres, Dan Tworek, Brian Weiner, Angelo S. LaMantia, Mark Kelleher. Other members unable to call in due to error with call in code

!: Jon Chorey, as Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm with a quorum present, confirmed by a roll call of members. Carol Coppola was there to review the budget and answer any questions. The Town Administrator was unable to attend due to a prior engagement.

- Mr. Chorey outlined that tonight the board would review revenue projections on page 8 of the proposed FY 2023 budget and do an overview of the budget.
- The Board thinks the revenue projections are low
- This is the first look at the budget, meetings will take place biweekly to review warrant articles, CPC proposals and budget and then submit recommendations to selectmen. The proposed budget has increased 6.5% over last year.

II. Review of budget by Carol Coppola.

- Increased revenue of \$415,000 earmarked to wastewater and affordable housing due to warrants at Fall Town Meeting
- Reduced revenue at DPW due to reduced demolition revenue
- Chair Jon Chorey stated revenue should be higher due to anticipated busy summer
- Brian Weiner stated 13 of 16 departments budgeted lower revenues in the FY 2023 budget.
- At the end of FY 2022 (BW) stated \$196 left in free cash.
- Brian asked why fiscal year 2021 was not used as a benchmark since that was pre-pandemic.
- Angelo La Matina questioned why higher harbor revenues could not be projected and adjusted at the end of fiscal year and on the new fiscal 2023 budget.
- Carol Coppola stated that she has done some adjusting to revenue projections (presented) but stated she is not aggressive on revenue projections.

III. Chair Chorey reviewed the budget for any large variances and to pose questions by the Board.

- In Administration, an increase of \$140,997 due to new hires for cultural director \$76,800 and housing advocate (\$70,538.) Benefits of each hire approximately \$23,000. New software to be purchased and supported.
- Community Development (-235,150) decreased due to positions farmed out to building dept and town planner.
- Board of Health a part-time position converted to full time, One administrative position from Community Development.

- Council on Aging: one new position of program specialist, expanded nutrition program.
- Carol Coppola reported free cash certified 8/16/2021. OPEB liability of \$42 million including Water Department.
- Carol Coppola reported increase in water dept due to technical services, increased utilities, chemical and PVC pipe
- Carol Coppola reported that Harwich will pay 23% of Chatham sewage plant costs

#### IV. Closing remarks by Chair Chorey

- Public invited to all meetings
- Finance Committee will meet every Tuesday and Thursday during March
- March 14 meeting with the capital outlay committee.

V: With no other pending matters on the agenda, and with no further discussion from the members present, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 pm

After the meeting the following discussion took place:

This video can be view on Harwich Town Web-site: under the Channel 18 tab and by clicking on the YouTube icon and selecting the Finance Committee March 3, 2022 meeting.

Before the camera/audio was turned off at the adjournment of the meeting at 1:18.54 video mark a comment was made by Brian Weiner, "are we off"? The response by Chair Jon Chorey was "we are still green; we are still red." At 1:19.01 video mark a comment was made by Chair Jon Chorey "there we go". At 1:19.02 video mark Brian Weiner said, "well gentleman and Angelo unless, unless I am mistaken now that the meeting is over unless I am mistaken my concern with this appears to be." At 1:19.16 video mark the camera and audio stopped.

What was said after "this it appears to be". Was "There was a good discussion on the budget that night", "we did not continue speaking about or with any specific info", "nothing more than what was in the video" and "very good budget discussion and something about (I think) needing more information on revenue forecasts for FY 2023". These were the 4 responses I received from the majority of the Finance Committee members who were present at the meeting and who responded back to me for their recollections of what was said at the meeting and when the video/audio stopped. Then we all left the meeting room.

Finance Committee members Karen Doucette and Dale Kennedy were not present at the March 3, 2022 Finance Committee meeting.

Any and all corrective and remedial action is being taken.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Kelleher  
Acting Secretary

