

MINUTES
Warrant Committee Meeting
January 26, 2022

Warrant Committee Members	Participating remotely: Sharon Tatro (Chair), Robert Sliney, Stephen Callahan, Kristine Barton, Ed Vozzella, Jeremy Marsette, Mather Eldred. (Jill Rafter and Amanda Hall later joined the meeting in progress and participated remotely).	
Guests	Participating Remotely: Kristine Trierweiler, Town Administrator Nicholas Milano, Assistant Town Administrator	
Meeting Location	By remote participation via Zoom	
Meeting Times	Meeting convened: 7:00 pm	Meeting adjourned: 7:28 pm
Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approval of January 11, 2022 - Meeting Minutes 	
Operational Budgets (including votes taken)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● None 	
Warrant Articles (including votes taken)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Listing of FY 23 Warrant Articles 	
List of all documents and exhibits used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Presentation by Town Finance – FY 23 Budget Outlook 	
Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● None 	
Follow-ups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● None 	
Dates for Meetings including WC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Warrant Committee Meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ February 9th ○ February 16th 	
Current State: Operating and Capital Costs		
	<p>Sharon opened the meeting with Warrant Committee members stating they are participating remotely. Motion to approve the minutes from the January 11, 2022, meeting as submitted by Kristine Barton was made, seconded, and voted unanimously by roll call of all Warrant Committee members present.</p> <p>Sharon turned the rest of the agenda over to Kristine Trierweiler.</p>	

Kristine T. and Nick Milano presented the FY 23 Budget Forecast. Kristine T. gave an overview of those key assumptions and challenges with the current FY 23 budget forecast. Specifically, she mentioned the heavy reliance Medfield has on residential property taxes for revenue. She mentioned there is very limited growth in state aid this year and limited sources of new revenue in the forecast. The town is facing increased costs in our health insurance, retirement and property and general liability insurance costs this year. We did end the year with a strong free cash balance and the Federal Stimulus Funding (ARPA) is expected to fully fund the FY 23 and FY 24 capital budget, however, they are still working through some administrative issues obtaining the Federal Funds from Norfolk County and will provide an update at a future meeting.

She reviewed some of the assumptions for growth in projected revenue sources/categories.

Cherry Sheets recently released indicate only a 1.18% increase in State Aid. This is the lowest in several years and is not keeping up with the increases in our school and town budgets.

Total revenue projected increase for schools and town is expected to be approximately \$1.6 million

Kristine T. reviewed the details of the projection for local receipts, including a recent rebound in our meals tax revenue.

On the expenditure side, Kristine T. discussed they have directed departments to maintain a level service when completing the FY 23 budget request. There are three positions that they are looking to restore to FY 21 levels and some new positions. She mentioned they are currently negotiating police and fire contracts and any increase from these negotiations are not currently included in cost estimates.

Jill Rafter joined the meeting participating remotely.

Kristine T. indicated the School Committee will have their budget hearing on January 27, 2022, and they will incorporate their budget into the full budget picture for the Warrant Committee at our next meeting.

She indicated that the Town Departments (excluding school) are requesting a \$499,000 increase in expenditures, which represents a 4.1% increase over last year.

Kristine Barton mentioned the State Aid is very low compared to prior years and inquired about the factors the State uses to allocate aid to communities. She questioned if we could appeal

	<p>this allocation. Kristine T. answer that unfortunately we are not allowed to appeal this allocation.</p> <p>Kristine T. then moved onto a discussion of the Financial Policy. The selectmen accepted the Warrant Committee's recommended changes and approved for a second time the Financial Policy.</p> <p>Motion to approve the Financial Policy, as revised, and approved by the Selectmen was made, seconded, and voted unanimously by roll call of all Warrant Committee members present.</p> <p>Kristine T. mentioned the Warrant had now closed and she distributed before the meeting a listing of 24 Warrant Articles for the upcoming Town Meeting. This is a low number this year.</p> <p>Sharon asked members to review the listing of articles and if there were any, they had an interest in taking on please let her know. She will then make assignments taking this into account.</p> <p>Amanda Hall joined the meeting participating remotely.</p> <p>There being no other business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and voted unanimously by a roll call of all Warrant Committee members present.</p> <p>Meeting adjourned at 7:29pm.</p>
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Respectfully Submitted: Stephen Callahan

Approved minutes to be sent to: nmilano@medfield.net