

Town of Uxbridge, Massachusetts

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting/ Date: Tuesday, October 3, 2023

Place: Board Of Selectmen Meeting Room

Attendance: Present or Absent

Jim Hogan (JH) - Chair	P	Richard Michel (RM)	P	Art Poisson (AP)	P
Claudia Cataldo (CC) – Vice Chair	P	Bob White (BW)	P	David Moriarty (DM)	P
Deb Stark (DS) - Clerk	P				

1. Call to Order: 6:00 pm

MOTION: Claudia Cataldo made a motion to reopen the public hearing for the town meeting. BW seconded the motion. The Committee voted 7-0 in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

2023 NOV 21 AM 10:11

2. Public Hearing – Fall Annual Town Meeting: Tuesday, October 24, 2023 – Warrant Articles

a. Article 5: Unanticipated Preschool Expenses

A slide presentation and discussion by the school department for Article 5 was led by School Committee member Ed Maharay, Special Education Director Jennifer Toth, and Superintendent Dr. Baldassarre. Mr. Maharay informed FinCom that the schools are planning on passing over Articles 6 and 7. The amount requested for article 5 is \$478,849 as a transfer from stabilization. DS concerned that school department does not want to use more of its PreK revolving account to cover the expenses. Mr. Maharay says they want to keep a stronger balance to help fund FY25 budget. Discussion about whether the town should ask to raise or appropriate the requested funds vs requesting transfer from stabilization. Preference with the Committee is to choose raise and appropriate. There were concerns about the 15K request for therapeutic classroom buildout and whether that should be absorbed within the school's FY24 current appropriation. There was discussion about FY25 budgetary challenges the town and the school have begun to identify.

Public Comments:

- Tina Ryan – stated she was seeking clarification on how Uxbridge would balance the peer model enrollment requirements of PreK classes with the addition of new PreK classrooms. She questioned how the current tuition rates in Uxbridge for PreK were/are established and expressed concern that the current cost might be too high to attract enough students.
- Pat Tuer – shared some context (as a former school committee member) about the school revolving accounts and why certain decisions about their past expenditures had occurred. He also shared that he believed the upcoming school budget will be higher than what the town is used to seeing and it was important for people to be aware of that.
- Kara Guy – asked questions regarding: where the PreK students were currently placed that would fill the 5th and 6th PreK classrooms and whether the district currently had students in

need of the proposed therapeutic classroom. She was concerned the district might not have the staffing capacity to support the therapeutic classroom.

b. Article 6: Unanticipated Reductions in Federal Entitlement Grants

No discussion – will be passed over at town meeting

c. Article 7: Unanticipated Expenses – General

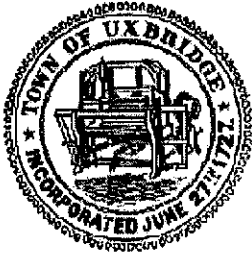
No discussion – will be passed over at town meeting

MOTION: *Mr. Hogan entertained a motion to close the public hearing for the fall annual town meeting for October 24th. Ms. Cataldo made the motion. BW seconded the motion. The Committee voted in favor of the motion 7-0. **The motion passed.***

3. Adjournment

MOTION: *Mr. Hogan made a motion to adjourn the finance meeting. CC made the motion. DM seconded the motion. The Committee voted 7-0 in favor of the motion. **The motion passed.***

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.



Finance Committee Approval Sheet

Meeting Date: 10/03/2023

Place: BOS Meeting Room

Name	Signature	Date
Jim Hogan, Chair	<i>Jim Hogan</i>	11/16/23
Claudia Cataldo, Vice Chair	<i>Claudia N Cataldo</i>	11/16/23
Deb Stark, Clerk		
Bob White		
Art Poisson	<i>Art Poisson</i>	11/16/23
Richard Michel	<i>Richard Michel</i>	11/16/23
David Moriarty	<i>David Moriarty</i>	11/14/23

