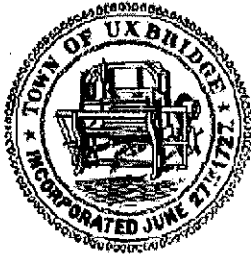


Town of Uxbridge, Massachusetts Finance Committee Meeting

Minutes



RECEIVED TOWN CLERK
2022 NOV 14 PM 3:56

Meeting Date: OCTOBER 5, 2022
Room

Place: Town Hall BOS Meeting
and Remote Via Zoom

Attendance: Present or Absent

Jim Hogan (JH) - Chair	P	Peter Aranow (PA)	P	Art Poisson (AP)	P
Susan Franz (SF) - Vice Chair	P **	Richard Michel (RM)	P	Bob White (BW)	P
Jennifer Kurzon (JK) - Clerk	P*				

*Arrived at 6:04 and did not answer present on roll call

**At 8:20 pm SF recused herself from remainder of meeting during deliberations and votes on Articles 14-23 which she sponsored.

Call to Order: 6:00 pm - Roll Call taken as illustrated above

1. Finance Committee ("Fincom") Deliberation and Voting on recommendations for Articles in the Uxbridge Fall Annual town meeting warrant October 25 2022

a. ARTICLE 1: TRANSFER TO STABILIZATION

To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate a sum or sums of money, including Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund Account, or take any other action relating thereto.

Chair does not have the figures for this Article so it is continued to Fincom meeting to be held immediately before Town Meeting on 10/25/22.

b. ARTICLE 2: TRANSFER TO CAPITAL STABILIZATION FUND

To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate a sum or sums of money from the General Stabilization Fund to the Cap Stabilization Fund, or take any other action relating thereto.

Chair does not have the figures for this Article so it is continued to Fincom meeting to be held immediately before Town Meeting on 10/25/22

c. ARTICLE 3: CAPITAL PURCHASES

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or transfer a sum or sums of money for capital purchases and/or projects as recommended by the Town Manager in conjunction with the Capital Planning Committee, or take any other action relating thereto.

Fincom begins discussion with outstanding issue Committee has had regarding the various departments that typically receive capital allocations.

Motion	To recommend favorable action on Article 3 No. 1 School Dept Field Lighting Project, if necessary				
1st	SF	2nd	AP	Vote	6-1-0
Roll Call Vote: Yea: PA, JK, AP, BW, SF, JH Nea: RM					

Motion	To recommend favorable action on Article 3 No. 2 Treasurer/Collector switch from Vadar to Munis system				
1st	JK	2nd	AP	Vote	7-0-0
Roll Call Vote: Yea: PA, JK, RM, AP, BW, SF, JH					

Motion	To recommend favorable action on Article 3 Nos. 3, 4 & 6, DPW				
1st	SF	2nd	PA	Vote	6-0-1
Roll Call Vote: Yea: PA, AP, BW, SF, JH Nea: Abstain: JK					

Motion	To recommend favorable action on Article 3 No. 7 School Dept-Emergency repairs to McCloskey Roof major leaking in cafeteria				
1st	SF	2nd	JK	Vote	6-1-0
Roll Call Vote: Yea: PA, JK, AP, BW, SF, JH Nea: RM					

Art. 3, No. 5 has not been voted on by Fincom as they need additional information. It will be voted on at Fincom Meeting immediately before 10/25 Town Meeting.

Commentary on all Capital Purchase votes-The Finance committee recommends favorable action on the School lighting project, Treasurer collector Munis migration, DPW items for High street, Pout Pond. Legacy material, and the repairs for the McCloskey roof. We are looking for more detailed information for the Sutton street culvert project prior to town meeting.

The Finance committee unanimously requests the Board of Selectmen and town manager's office begin working on creating a 5 year capital plan in line with projected population and business growth. The finance committee advises that time is of the essence in resolving the finale disposition of the McCluskey building.

The party that abstained on DPW items 3,4,6 even though they agreed with the item #6 the removal of DPW legacy material, items 3 and 4 do not have enough information to make a determination, specifically schematics for the entire projects and amounts spent on feasibility studies.

The unfavorable vote is due exclusively to the lack of a strategic capital plan.

d. ARTICLE 4: INCREASE SENIOR & VETERAN WORK-OFF PROGRAM BENEFIT

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Senior & Veteran Work-off Program benefit increase from \$1,000.00 to \$1,500.00 in a given tax year effective January 2024, or take any other action relating thereto.

Motion	To recommend favorable action on Article 4				
1st	SF	2nd	JK	Vote	7-0-0
Roll Call Vote: Yea: PA, JK, RM, AP, BW, SF, JH					

Commentary: Fincom finds this is an excellent program and the additional amount is negligible.

e. ARTICLE 5: ADJUSTED EXEMPTION AMOUNT FOR CLAUSE 17C

To see if the Town will vote to accept M.G.L. c. 59, § 5, Clause 17F, which authorizes an annual increase in the amount of the exemption granted to senior citizens, surviving spouses and surviving minors under M.G.L. c. 59, § 5, Clause 17C; and to fix the annual increase at 100% of the state authorized COLA increase

Motion	To recommend favorable action on Article 5				
1st	RM	2nd	JK	Vote	7-0-0
Roll Call Vote: Yea: PA, JK, RM, AP, BW, SF, JH					

Commentary: This is an excellent program, and the additional amount is negligible.

f. ARTICLE 6: ADJUSTED ASSET LIMIT FOR CLAUSE 17C

To see if the Town will vote to accept M.G.L. c. 59, § 5, Clause 17E, which authorizes an annual increase in the asset (whole estate) limit for exemptions granted to senior citizens, surviving spouses and surviving minors under M.G.L. c. 59, § 5, Clause 17C; and to fix the annual increase at 100% of the state authorized COLA increase

Motion	To recommend favorable action on Article 6				
1st	RM	2nd	JK	Vote	7-0-0
Roll Call Vote: Yea: PA, JK, RM, AP, BW, SF, JH					

Commentary: This is an excellent program, and the additional amount is negligible.

g. ARTICLE 7: ADJUSTED INCOME AND ASSET LIMIT FOR CLAUSE 41C

To see if the Town will vote to accept M.G.L. c. 59, § 5, Clause 41D, which authorizes an annual increase in the income (gross receipts) and asset (whole estate) limits for exemptions granted to senior citizens under: M.G.L. c. 59, § 5, Clause 41C; and to fix the annual increase at 100% of the state authorized COLA increase

Motion	To recommend favorable action on Article 7				
1st	RM	2nd	JK	Vote	7-0-0

Roll Call Vote: Yea: PA, JK, RM, AP, BW, SF, JH

Commentary: This is an excellent program, and the additional amount is negligible.

h. ARTICLE 8: EXCISE EXEMPTION FOR POW VETERANS

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of the following paragraph of M.G.L. c. 60A, § 1: "In any city or town that accepts this paragraph, the excise tax imposed by this section shall not apply to a motor vehicle owned and registered by or leased to a former prisoner of war defined as any regularly appointed, enrolled, enlisted, or inducted member of the military forces of the United States who was captured, separated and incarcerated by an enemy of the United States during an armed conflict, or to a motor vehicle owned and registered by or leased to the surviving spouse of a deceased former prisoner of war, until such time as the surviving spouse remarries or fails to renew the registration," or take any other action relating thereto.

Motion	To recommend favorable action on Article 8				
1st	RM	2nd	JK	Vote	7-0-0
Roll Call Vote: Yea: PA, JK, RM, AP, BW, SF, JH					

Commentary: This is an excellent program, and the additional amount is negligible.

i. ARTICLE 9: VETERAN PROPERTY OWNED IN A TRUST

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. c. 59, § 5, Clause Twenty-second G, which states that "In any city or town that accepts this clause, real estate that is the domicile of a person but is owned by a trustee, conservator or other fiduciary for the person's benefit if the real estate would be eligible for exemption under Clause Twenty-second, Twenty-second A, Twenty-second B, Twenty-second C, Twenty-second D, Twenty-second E or Twenty-second F if the person were the owner of the real estate," or take any other action relating thereto.

Motion	To recommend favorable action on Article 9				
1st	SF	2nd	JK	Vote	7-0-0
Roll Call Vote: Yea: PA, JK, RM, AP, BW, SF, JH					

Commentary: This is a great program that allows Vets to retain all their benefits.

j. ARTICLE 10: PETITION GENERAL COURT FOR ACT OF SPECIAL LEGISLATION

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for an act of special legislation, granting 4 additional liquor licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk off the premises; provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court which are within the scope of the general public objectives of the petition, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to approve such amendments; or act thereon

Motion	To recommend favorable action on Article 10				
1st	JK	2nd	SF	Vote	7-0-0
Roll Call Vote: Yea: PA, JK, RM, AP, BW, SF, JH					

Commentary: This proposal is an appropriate expansion given the growth of the town. The additional licenses will further increase revenue.

k. ARTICLE 11: NON-CRIMINAL DISPOSITION

To see if the Town will vote to amend its General Bylaws by adding the following bylaw to establish non-criminal disposition in the town

Motion	To recommend favorable action on Article 11				
1st	JK	2nd	RM	Vote	7-0-0
Roll Call Vote: Yea: PA, JK, RM, AP, BW, SF, JH					

Commentary: Fincom finds that enforcement of the Town's bylaws is a critical tool. The current enforcement is via the court system which is costly both in time and town funds. These three bylaws are a good starting point and a good process to bring before town meeting.

I. ARTICLE 12: AMENDMENT TO ZONING BYLAW: SECTION 400-15 SIGNS

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Uxbridge Zoning Bylaw to add a new Section 400-15 Signs, or take any other action relating thereto

Motion	To recommend favorable action on Article 12				
1st	JK	2nd	PA	Vote	6-1-0
Roll Call Vote: Yea: PA, JK, RM, AP, BW, JH. Nea: SF					

Commentary: The Finance committee finds that this article establishes increased regulation which is currently minimal as well as establishes a special permitting process.

The unfavorable recommendation was due to broad discretion given the planning board and ZBA to make exceptions to the bylaw.

m. ARTICLE 13: AMENDMENT TO ZONING BYLAW: SECTION 400-16 ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Uxbridge Zoning Bylaw to add a new Section 400-16 Accessory Dwelling Units, or take any other action relating thereto.

Motion	To recommend favorable action on Article 13				
1st	RM	2nd	JK	Vote	7-0-0
Roll Call Vote: Yea: PA, JK, RM, AP, BW, SF, JH					

Commentary: The bylaw provides needed alternative housing options for families and caregivers.

n. ARTICLE 14: CITIZEN PETITION – AMEND THE HOME RULE CHARTER TO ALLOW PETITIONS FOR TOWN MEETING ARTICLES TO BE ACCEPTED DURING REGULARLY SCHEDULED OFFICE HOURS

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Uxbridge Town Charter Article 2, § 7(c), by clarifying the time period for submission of Town Meeting articles.

ARTICLE 15: CITIZEN PETITION – AMEND THE HOME RULE CHARTER TO CLARIFY THE DEFINITION AND USAGE FOR NUMBER AND GENDER

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Uxbridge Town Charter Article 7 § 4, to clarify the definition and usage for number and gender.

ARTICLE 20: CITIZEN PETITION – AMEND THE HOME RULE CHARTER TO CLARIFY PROCEDURES FOR MULTI-MEMBER BODIES REGARDING EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS, MINUTES, AND COMPLIANCE WITH GENERAL LAWS, THE CHARTER, AND BYLAWS

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Uxbridge Town Charter Article 7 § 7(a)-(d) to clarify procedures for multi- member bodies.

Motion	To recommend favorable action on Article 14, 15 and 20-taken in separate votes				
1st	RM	2nd	JK	Vote	6-0-0
Roll Call Vote: Yea: PA, JK, RM, AP, BW, JH					

Commentary: These 3 amendments are all appropriate housekeeping updates.

o. ARTICLE 16: CITIZEN PETITION – AMEND THE HOME RULE CHARTER TO REQUIRE AT LEAST FIVE MEMBERS TO SERVE ON SPECIFIC MULTI-MEMBER BODIES HOLDING CERTAIN REGULATORY RESPONSIBILITIES

To see if the Town will vote to insert a definition for regulatory bodies in Article 1 §5 and amend the Uxbridge Town Charter Article 3 § 8(a), and Article 7 § 8(b) in regard to membership on multi-member bodies with regulatory responsibilities.

Motion	To recommend favorable action on Article 16				
1st	JK	2nd	RM	Vote	6-0-0
Roll Call Vote: Yea: PA, JK, RM, AP, BW, JH					

Commentary: Fincom believes that the additional members of regulatory boards is important. These boards will continue to function even if all seats are not filled as other boards do.

p. ARTICLE 17: CITIZEN PETITION – AMEND THE HOME RULE CHARTER TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF ELECTED MEMBERS TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE BY ONE AND DECREASE THE NUMBER OF APPOINTED MEMBERS BY ONE AND ADJUST TERMS AND METHOD OF SELECTION

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Uxbridge Town Charter Article 2, § 3 and the Uxbridge General Bylaws Part I §35-2, by adjusting the number of elected and appointed members of the Finance Committee and the method of appointment of Finance Committee members.

Motion	To recommend unfavorable action on Article 17				
1st	RM	2nd	JH	Vote	5-1-0
Roll Call Vote: Yea: PA, JK, AP, RM, JH Nea: BW					

Commentary: The unfavorable members are concerned about the filling of elected vacancies. There is also concern for the lack of engagement and risks associated with a write in candidate. We believe that the present system works and see no reason to change it.

The favorable member believes that the change would give more power to the voters to elect committee members.

q. ARTICLE 18: CITIZEN PETITION – AMEND THE HOME RULE CHARTER TO MAKE THE TOWN MANAGER’S ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW A PUBLIC RECORD

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Uxbridge Town Charter Article 4 § 1 to make the Town Manager’s Annual Performance Review a public record.

Motion	To recommend favorable action on Article 18				
1st	JK	2nd	RM	Vote	6-0-0
Roll Call Vote: Yea: PA, JK, RM, AP, BW, JH					

Commentary: This will increase accessibility to the BOS’s performance review as well as make the BOS process and documentation more accessible to citizens of the Town.

r. ARTICLE 19: CITIZEN PETITION – AMEND THE HOME RULE CHARTER TO ADOPT PROCEDURES TO REVIEW AND/OR RETIRE MULTI-MEMBER BODIES AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Uxbridge Town Charter Article 7 to add §10 to review and retire multi-member bodies and advisory committees.

Motion	To recommend unfavorable action on Article 19				
1st	JK	2nd	RM	Vote	6-0-0
Roll Call Vote: Yea: PA, JK, RM, AP, BW, JH					

Commentary: The finance committee feels this exceeds the underlying premise of housekeeping by requiring boards/committees to revisit town meeting show every three years to show their worth.

s. ARTICLE 21: CITIZEN PETITION – AMEND THE HOME RULE CHARTER TO EXTEND THE TIME TO OBTAIN AND REDUCE THE NUMBER OF SIGNATURES NEEDED FOR A PETITION TO RECALL AN ELECTED OFFICIAL

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Uxbridge Town Charter Article 3 §10 (b), §10(d), and §10(e)(3) to extend the time to obtain signatures needed for recall petitions, and to reduce the number of signatures needed for such petitions and clarify language regarding ballot candidates.

Motion	To recommend <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> favorable action on Article 21				
1st	JK	2nd	RM	Vote	6-0-0
Roll Call Vote: Yea: PA, JK, RM, AP, BW, JH					

Commentary: These adjustments streamline the process while keeping the high threshold required to initiate the recall process.

t. ARTICLE 22: CITIZEN PETITION – AMEND THE HOME RULE CHARTER REGARDING BUDGETS, PUBLIC BUDGET HEARINGS, AND RELATED DEADLINES TO MAKE KEY DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Uxbridge Town Charter Article 6 § 2, Article 6 § 4, and Article 6 § 6 (c) and (d) to require that key budget documents be available to the public.

Motion	To recommend <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> favorable action on Article 21				
1st	JK	2nd	RM	Vote	5-0-1
Roll Call Vote: Yea: PA, JK, RM, AP, BW, Abstain: JH					

Commentary: Fincom feels this moves the Town in the right direction in providing the public with documents for the public hearing.

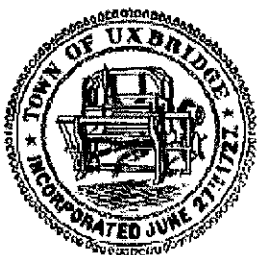
2. Review and Acting upon Outstanding Meeting Minutes; JK discussed new version of the 9/28 meeting minutes she emailed to all Members today and JH discussed how we need to have a meeting in early November to review all outstanding minutes.
3. New business to be set for discussion at next FinCom Meeting-Setting up November meeting with Town Manager ("TM") in early November as to discuss memberships requested start up of its receipt of Department's monthly income/expense reports, starting process for departments creating 5 year

capital plans and other matters Fincom membership would like to discuss with TM.

4.

Motion	Adjourn at 9:46 pm				
1st	JK	2nd	RM	Vote	6-0-0
Roll Call Vote: Yea: PA, JK, RM, AP, BW, JH					Abstain: N/A

Video replay of meeting available at: <https://archive.uxbridgetv.org/Video/7759>



Finance Committee Approval Sheet

Meeting Date: 10/5/2022

Name	Signature	Date
Jim Hogan, Chair	<i>Jim Hogan</i>	11/9/22
Susan Franz, Vice Chair		
Jennifer Kurzon, Clerk		
Richard Michel	<i>Richard P. Michel</i>	11/9/22
Peter Aranow		
Art Poisson	<i>Art Poisson</i>	11/9/22
Bob White		