



Special Joint Meeting of the Town Council and Town Council Finance Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday, May 9, 2024, at 8:30 p.m.

This is a hybrid meeting. The Public is invited to attend this meeting in person or remotely, by telephone or computer access.

Call to Order: Council Vice-President Brewer called the meeting to order.

Roll Call – Council Members Present: Chris Alexopoulos (Via Zoom), William Alexopoulos (Via Zoom), Richard Brewer (In-Person), Jesse Gordon (In-Person), Katrina Huff-Larmond (In-Person), Kevin O’Connell (In-Person), Brandon Thompson (In-Person).

Old/Unfinished Business:

1. Discussion of FY2025 Annual Operating Budget

Council Vice-President Brewer: At this time, I will list each line item of the budget and request that if any Councillor has questions about a specific line item, or would like to discuss it, then state “Hold” and we will come back to discuss it.

Town Council - Councillor-Huff-Larmond
Town Manager - Councillor Huff-Larmond
Conservation - Councillor Gordon
Planning - Councillor Gordon
Town Clerk - Councillor Huff-Larmond
Randolph Public Schools - Councillor Gordon
Highway - Councillor Gordon
Stetson Hall Trustees - Councillor Gordon
Community Programs - Councillor Huff-Larmond

Discussion:

Town Council Line Item

Councillor Huff-Larmond: We never use the full amount for professional development. Is that something we still need? Town Manager Howard: Well some Councillors use that funding source more than others and it give you each an opportunity to go to different conferences such as the annual Massachussetts Municipal Association Conference, and other. Council President Alexopoulos: It’s a short amount of money and anything that is not spent, goes right back into the general fund at the end of the year.

Town Manager Line Item

Councillor Huff-Larmond: Is the Assistant Town Manager position still included in the Town Manager’s budget? If so, what is the salary? Is the youthworks program also ran out of this budget? Town Manager Howard: Yes it is. It’s currently at \$125,000. youth workers done through you? The Youth Works budget has come from operations.

Town Clerk Line Item

Councillor Huff-Larmond: There has been an increase in the budget for Town Clerk. Also with Haitian creole potentially getting added to ballots, are there enough funds for that? Town Manager Howard: The salary increases are step and cost of living increases. Ballots with Haitian-Creole are just going on ballots for local elections. That will be budgeted accordingly.

Conservation Commission and Planning Line Items

Councillor Gordon: We need a staff person to work on and oversee open space and recreation plans (OSRP). Town Manager Howard: The Conservation agent can be encouraged to get more involved but any additional services needed related to OSRP can come out of the professional services line item in the Planning Department. Additional discussion was held concerning grant administration.

Community Programs Line Item

Councillor Huff-Larmond: What is the increase for? Town Manager Howard: The amount granted is actually less than what was requested. Most of the increase is going towards the Zapustas Ice Skating Rink. We are having to spend more on maintenance and are looking into hiring more staff. Councillor Huff-Larmond: How we can do a better job with repairs or do a full makeover of the rink? Town Manager Howard: If you have an opportunity to go visit the rink, there have been lots of repairs done using capital funds.

Stetson Hall Line Item

Councillor Huff-Larmond: Is anything going to be done with Stetson Hall to make it more functional? Are there any grants available to make Stetson available so we can get more revenue out of it? Town Manager Howard: I have been meeting with the Stetson Trustees and we are talking about making the downstairs space available for use for office businesses. We are also in the process of repairing the upstairs. From a historic building standpoint, larger functions are not possible.

Randolph Public Schools Line Item

Councillor Gordon: Can we review what was asked for in the previous meeting? Town Attorney Griffin: So the Council President made a motion for the Town Manager to provide information on how to provide the schools with a 5% increase. The Town Manager can do that in a variety of different ways including presenting an alternative budget but the Town Council cannot order him to present an alternative budget. Councillor Gordon: I'd like to see an outline of 6-6.5% increase to the school budget.

Motion for the Town Manager to present information on how to provide the Randolph Public School Department with a 6.25% increase with any potential revenue streams, made by Councillor Gordon, seconded by Councillor Huff-Larmond.

Roll Call Vote: 3-4-0 (Nays: C. Alexopoulos, W. Alexopoulos, Brewer, Thompson)

Motion fails.

Highway Line Item

Councillor Gordon: free FTE to fund additional XYZ TMH: i think you're adding two future year deficits. We've added five additional bodies since 2021. we also have summer help. 1 started today. three more are coming in. JG: there was lots of discussion about net game and have stayed even.

Motion for the Town Manager to present information on how to provide three additional full time employees to help with litter cleanup, do additional pothole filling, and additional department of public works duties from a funding source as determined by the Town Manager made by Councillor Gordon. The motion died for lack of a second.

Town Manager Howard provided insight on the feasibility of adding three full time employees to the FY2025 Annual Operating Budget.

The motion dies for lack of a second.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made by Councillor Huff-Larmond, seconded by Councillor O'Connell.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0-0 (Absent during vote: C. Alexopoulos, W. Alexopoulos; Absent: Burgess, Egan)

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.