



OBSERVER REPORT

FINANCE COMMITTEE: December 13, 2021

Members in Attendance: Alec Goolsby, Pat Franklin, Emily Belfbecker, Cameron Staples, Terra Samuels, Michael O'Neil, Molly Teets, Ronan McCall, Clerk, Steve Poulos, Town Finance Director

INTRODUCTION

The Fin Com liaison sub committees have been meeting with their designated departments to formulate budgets prior to approval by the whole committee. Steve Poulos, the Town Finance Director, has asked whenever possible for "level funded" budgets – i.e. no increases with the exception of contractual obligations, union mandated salary levels, and compliance with the new town pay schedules as approved at the 2021 annual Town Meeting.

Budget Hearing for Health and Waste:

All changes in the Health budget are due to mandated salary increases. Additionally, The Health Inspector has become a union position – a change that is reflected in the request. The Health workload and expenses were unusually high this year due to Covid. Andrew Petty and the Board were successful in obtaining CDC grants and other support to cover these extra expenses.

The Health budget request of \$307,047.51 was unanimously approved.

The Waste budget request included mandated salary increases as well as approximately \$25,000 of additional expenses for grinding and compost removal.

Marblehead is in the 6th year of a highly favorable 10-year contract with JRM Waste Collection. When the contract ends there will be substantial increases in costs of collection and recycling to the Town.

The Waste budget request of \$2,510,139.17 was unanimously approved.

Budget Hearing for Town Clerk/Elections and Registration

The Town Clerk budget request of \$214,105.17 was unanimously approved.

The Elections and Registration proposed budget was increased due to higher administrative costs and staff workloads associated with the 2022 election cycle. The budget request of \$57.287 was unanimously approved

Budget Hearing for Retirement Department:

The State submits an annual assessment to the Town for the contribution needed to fully fund its retirement account by FY 2039. The bulk of the amount is paid directly by the Town and the enterprise groups (Water, Sewer, and Harbors) pay the remainder.

The total budget request of \$5,195,313 was unanimously approved

The Town share of the request, \$4,151,398 was also unanimously approved

Budget hearing for Assessors

Rescheduled for January, 2022

Budget hearing for Recreation and Parks Department

Expenses for FY 23 are projected to remain level. The budget request reflects reflect mandatory salary increases.

The Rec and Parks salary request of \$870,938.71 was unanimously approved.