

MARBLEHEAD LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OBSERVER CORP REPORT FORM

League Observer: Bonnie Grenier

Finance Committee – December 2, 2019

Members in Attendance: Ben Berman, Emily Belfbecker, Pat Franklin, Adriaan Zur Muhlen, Alec Goolsby, Yeimi Colon, Clerk/Secretary and Assistant Director of Accounting, and Alison Nieto, Finance Director/Town Accountant were also in attendance.

Members Absent: Blair Nelson, Kevin Brodrick, Richard Doron

Meeting posted 48 hours in advance in handicapped accessible location

Summary of Agenda Items:

**Elections:** Ben Berman was re-elected Chairman; Blair Nelson and Emily Belfbecker were voted in as Co-Vice Chairmen

**Liaisons and Meeting Schedules:** Ben Berman, in consultation with the co-chairs, recommended reducing the number of Finance Committee liaisons to each town Board/Commissions to 2-3 (down from 4-5 per board). These numbers could increase for departments expecting a significant financial expenditure in the following fiscal year. Abbot Library, with its extensive renovation plan might warrant more Finance Committee liaisons, as an example

The Chairman will work on a schedule for future Finance Committee meetings and meetings with the various town departments. The State of the Town Meeting will be held in early January and Finance Committee liaison meetings will begin immediately thereafter.

**Budget 2021 Discussion:**

Alison Nieto reported that in a cost saving effort, Jason Silva has asked departments not to fill vacancies where possible and/or reduce position(s) to part time. He has also asked department heads to submit any capital requests they have for next year. There has been the suggestion of a town meal tax as a way to increase revenue, but there was no discussion on this item at the meeting.

Things seem to be going well with the administration of the School budget. They have recently hired a new budget director. Some central administrative positions remain vacant pending the hiring of a new School Superintendent.

**Cemetery Commission – Reserve Fund Transfer:** This item was postponed since the representative from the Cemetery was not present. However, there was mention of the fact that while the Cemetery Commission does not have a budget item for legal fees, they have, in fact, incurred some legal expenses and are looking to the town for payment of those costs.

**Other Items:** After a brief discussion, the committee voted to accept the **Town of Marblehead's Remote Participation Policy** allowing members to participate and vote while not physically in attendance at meetings.

**Yeimi Colon, Assistant Director of Accounting** was introduced as the new Secretary/Clerk for the Finance Committee. She replaces Bob Ross who recently retired from this position.