



**Town of Swampscott**  
**Finance Committee Meeting Minutes**  
Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021- 5:30pm  
Virtual Meeting

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Tim Dorsey (Chair), Mary Ellen Fletcher (Vice-chair), Eric Hartmann, Joan Hilario, Matthew Kirschner, Cinder McNerney, Gail Rosenberg, Jill Sullivan

**OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Amy Sarro, Director of Admin. & Finance, Patrick Luddy, Treasurer/Collector, Sean Fitzgerald, Town Administrator.

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 pm.

**Discussion/Possible Vote on recommendations for town meeting warrant articles**

Chairman Tim Dorsey mentioned that the level of Free Cash certified was lower than expected at 3.63M as opposed to what we had anticipated which was about 4.15M. He pointed out that if we were to change the Committee's recommendation to use 1.55M to 1.25M to offset tax levy, it would leave us \$447,866 remaining within the 3% of the operating budget for future uses. He also mentioned that School Committee might request \$750,000 of Free Cash for use in future negotiations.

Director of Admin. & Finance stated that if School Committee asked for \$750,000, that would put us at 1.96% in our Free Cash which is below 3% low end of the range.

Cinder McNerney said we need to have Free Cash certified timelier each year so that we can have a Fall Town meeting to address contracts.

MaryEllen asked if we received \$500,000 from FEMA.

Amy Sarro confirmed that the amount was \$545,000 and Gino Cresta, Director of DPW, has been working with FEMA to get that obligated and paid to us but has not got an official answer.

Jill Sullivan said it is prudent to lower the Free Cash for Tax levy down to 1.25M in terms of lowered Free Cash certified.

On **MOTION** (Jill Sullivan), and **SECONDED** (Gail Rosenberg), it was **VOTED** to amend the recommendation from 1.55m to 1.25M on Article 4. **ROLL CALL**: Eric Hartmann (YES),

Cinder McNerney (YES), MaryEllen Fletcher (YES), Matthew Kirschner (YES), Tim Dorsey (YES), Joan Hilario (YES).

MaryEllen Fletcher had a question regarding using Free Cash to support operating budget. She also commented that it would make more sense to set aside the money in a Salary Reserve and use the money from there.

Amy Sarro responded MaryEllen Fletcher's question about the FEMA money that it came from FEMA Seawall project for a 2018 storm. She also mentioned that we would not have full commitment to the money until we have the obligation letter.

Cinder McNerney asked if the money schools are getting has restricted uses.

Amy Sarro answered that they get ESSER III and the money is not for operation uses. She confirmed the amount for this grant is 1.43M.

On **MOTION** (Jill Sullivan) and **SECONDED** (Cinder McNerney), it was **VOTED** to adjourn the meeting at 6:03 pm.

**ROLL CALL:** Gail Rosenberg (YES), Eric Hartmann (YES), MaryEllen Fletcher (YES), Matthew Kirschner (YES), Joan Hilario (YES), Tim Dorsey (YES).

True Attest,

*Trang Vu*

Trang Vu, Assistant Town Accountant

*Minutes APPROVED by vote of the Finance Committee 03/07/2022.*