



**Town of Harvard  
Finance Committee**  
Minutes for October 6, 2021

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**The Finance Committee Regular Meeting was held virtually in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L.c.30A. S.20.**

**Present:** Jennifer Finch(chair), Mike Derse, Richard Fellows, Charles Oliver, Ethan Pride, Eric Ward,Carolynn Luescher

**Absent:** Don Ludwig

**Others:** Tim Bragan (Town Administrator), Debbie Thompson (COA), Guy Oliva (COA), Christina Williams, John Osborn (Harvard Press)

**Public Commentary:** None

ARTICLE 1: Purchase Senior Service Building – Council On Aging

Projected cost would be \$2.612 million to purchase and renovate an existing building for a Senior Service Building. Operating expense budget from the new building will increase the Town budget. Median tax increase would be \$600.

The motion was made to postpone a vote because there were multiple unknown costs - purchase price, renovation costs, plowing, grounds maintenance, HVAC lifespan and that the committee felt it responsible to know these costs prior to taking a vote

Motion to defer deciding until the operating expense numbers and final cost of building are provided. A roll call vote was taken and was unanimously approved by Eric Ward, Charles Oliver, Ethan Pride, Mike Derse, and Jennifer Finch.

ARTICLE 2: Purchase New Fire Truck – Fire Department

A grant that was applied for many years and finally awarded this year for \$761,904. The new fire truck would delay the need to purchase a second truck that would have been needed soon. The median tax increase would be \$56 per year based on the median home value of properties in Harvard.

Motion was to recommend Article 2. A roll call vote was taken and was unanimously approved by Eric Ward, Charles Oliver, Ethan Pride, Mike Derse, and Jennifer Finch.

ARTICLE 3: Amend Chapter 125, The Protective Bylaw

It was decided that the Finance Committee will not be voting on Planning Board Articles.

ARTICLE 4: Amend Chapter 125-21, PERMITTED USES IN AR DISTRICTS, OF THE PROTECTIVE BYLAW

It was decided that the Finance Committee will not be voting on Planning Board Articles.

ARTICLE 5: Amend Chapter 125-27, SENIOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT, OF THE PROTECTIVE BYLAW

It was decided that the Finance Committee will not be voting on Planning Board Articles.

ARTICLE 6: Amend Chapter 125-52, AYER ROAD VILLAGE SPECIAL PERMIT, OF THE PROTECTIVE BYLAW

It was decided that the Finance Committee will not be voting on Planning Board Articles.

ARTICLE 7: Amend Chapter 128-2, DEFINITIONS, OF THE PROTECTIVE BYLAW

It was decided that the Finance Committee will not be voting on Planning Board Articles.

ARTICLE 8: Amend Protective Bylaw Chapter 125

It was decided that the Finance Committee will not be voting on Planning Board Articles.

ARTICLE 9: Amend Scenic Roads Bylaw Chapter 90

It was decided that the Finance Committee will not be voting on Planning Board Articles.

ARTICLE 10: Adopt MGL Chapter 90, Section 17C – 25MPH Speed Limits in Thickly Settled Areas of Business Districts

It was decided that the Finance Committee will not be voting on this Article.

ARTICLE 11: Home Rule Petition – Speed Limits

It was decided that the Finance Committee will not be voting on this Article.

ARTICLE 12: Home Rule Legislation for an Additional Off Premises All Alcohol License

ARTICLE 13: Amend Chart

It was decided that the Finance Committee will not be voting on this Article.

ARTICLE 14: Town Commons

It was decided that the Finance Committee will not be voting on this Article.

ARTICLE 15: Town Commons Alternative

It was decided that the Finance Committee will not be voting on this Article.

ARTICLE 16: Pay a Prior Year Bill

Rhode Island Analytical for services that were completed for the Town. Bill was \$281.50.

Motion was to recommend the Article. A roll call vote was taken and was unanimously recommended by Eric Ward, Charles Oliver, Ethan Pride, Mike Derse, and Jennifer Finch.

ARTICLE 17: Ambulance Retained Earnings

Motion was to recommend the Article. A roll call vote was taken and was unanimously recommended by Eric Ward, Charles Oliver, Ethan Pride, Mike Derse, and Jennifer Finch.

ARTICLE 18: Climate Resolution

Voted on during the September 29 meeting and was the motion was recommended Article 18. A roll call vote was taken on 9/29, and was unanimously recommended by Eric Ward, Charles Oliver, Ethan Pride, Mike Derse, and Jennifer Finch.

ARTICLE 19: Citizens Petition

It was decided that the Finance Committee will not be voting on this Article.

Staff Report presented by Tim Bragan. Review of points of interest to the Finance Committee:

1. The potential Health insurance changes.
2. CDL licensing changes that will require the Town to pay for CDL class as well as the time it takes to take the class.
3. Peace Officer Standards – 200 hours (paid) for training at Bridge Academy for 3 reserve officers.

**Upcoming meetings:** October 13, 2021 - 7pm - Zoom link will be available on the agenda when posted.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carolynn Luescher