

TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON MASSACHUSETTS  
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
Wednesday, June 21, 2023

1. **Call to Order and roll call vote** - P. Orenstein opened the meeting via Zoom at 6:00pm with a roll call: Madonna Meagher, "aye," Anne O'Dwyer, "aye," Philip Orenstein, "aye."  
Also in attendance: Town Manager Mark Pruhenski and Financial Coordinator Allison Crespo

2. **Committee Member announcements or statements** – There were none.

3. **Town Manager Update**

M. Pruhenski stated on June 26 the Selectboard will discuss a proposal for using the \$250,000 from the state and get public input. He provided an overview of the proposal to reimburse HWW customers up to \$500 per property for the installation of a water filtration system by the owner or tenant, retroactive to 2018 when manganese issues intensified. He noted this would provide relief to 500 customers, and if funds remain after six months, the Selectboard would revisit and consider providing additional funds to approved applicants or doing something different.

He clarified the Town does not need Finance Committee sign off as the funds are an Economic Development bill earmark and that there is not currently a timeframe for receiving the funds, but the town has submitted an application to the DEP and have been in contact. He added that he has informed them this is fairly urgent as August is typically when we see a spike in manganese/discolored water. He also confirmed June 26 will be a hybrid meeting.

4. **Discussion of Reserve Fund and/or year-end budget transfer requests - vote to approve.** M. Pruhenski stated the transfers are payroll to operations or vice versa to cover specific budget lines – and that the transfers need Finance Committee and Selectboard approval.

- a. P. Orenstein confirmed only departments that have overtime eligible employees have an overtime budget/code and it was clarified that there are inconsistencies in the codes which A. Crespo stated she is in the process of standardizing and making more uniform.
- b. The Committee agreed to consider each transfer request individually.

M. Meagher made a motion to approve the transfer within the DPW budget of \$4,000 from the overtime highway line to overtime buildings and grounds; A. O'Dwyer seconded. P. Orenstein asked for any discussion – there was none. Roll call vote: M. Meagher, "aye," A. O'Dwyer, "aye," P. Orenstein, "aye." All in favor: 3-0.

A. O'Dwyer made a motion to approve the transfer of \$37,010 within the DPW budget from salary lines to chemicals/supplies; M. Meagher seconded. P. Orenstein asked for any discussion – A. O'Dwyer asked, since it is a large dollar amount, what the chemicals are. Joe Aberdale, DPW Superintendent, replied it is for multiple chemicals for sewage treatment for which the Town goes out to bid, but prices and needs fluctuate. He noted funds are from labor accounts since there are leftover funds due to staff absences, which meant the needed funds could be managed within the overall departmental budget versus needing to request funds from Committee's reserve fund. Roll call vote: M. Meagher, "aye," A. O'Dwyer, "aye," P. Orenstein, "aye." All in favor: 3-0.

M. Meagher made a motion to approve the transfer of \$62,000 the DPW Building and Grounds budget, salary lines to DPW-roads/highways for street lights, gas/diesel, street repair; A. O'Dwyer seconded. P. Orenstein asked for any discussion – J. Aberdale stated this is due to increased energy costs. Roll call vote: M. Meagher, "aye," A. O'Dwyer, "aye," P. Orenstein, "aye." All in favor: 3-0.

A. O'Dwyer made a motion to approve the transfer of \$10,730 within the DPW-roads/highways budget from various salary lines to street lights; M. Meagher seconded. P. Orenstein asked for any discussion – there was none. Roll call vote: M. Meagher, “aye,” A. O'Dwyer, “aye,” P. Orenstein, “aye.” All in favor: 3-0.

A. O'Dwyer made a motion to approve the transfer within the Police Department budget” \$3,375 from uniforms 51920 to uniforms 55840; M. Meagher seconded. P. Orenstein asked for any discussion – there was none. Roll call vote: M. Meagher, “aye,” A. O'Dwyer, “aye,” P. Orenstein, “aye.” All in favor: 3-0.

A. O'Dwyer made a motion to approve the transfer within the Council on Aging of \$9,049 from elderly transportation to van drivers; M. Meagher seconded. P. Orenstein asked for any discussion – there was none. Roll call vote: M. Meagher, “aye,” A. O'Dwyer, “aye,” P. Orenstein, “aye.” All in favor: 3-0.

A. O'Dwyer made a motion to approve the transfer of \$116 from the Town Manager budget administration line to the Planning/Community Development budget line, specifically the Director and Affordable Housing stipend; M. Meagher seconded. P. Orenstein asked for any discussion – there was none. Roll call vote: M. Meagher, “aye,” A. O'Dwyer, “aye,” P. Orenstein, “aye.” All in favor: 3-0.

A. O'Dwyer made a motion to approve the transfer within the Fire Department budget of \$6,000 from overtime to repair/ maintenance; M. Meagher seconded. P. Orenstein asked for any discussion – there was none. Roll call vote: M. Meagher, “aye,” A. O'Dwyer, “aye,” P. Orenstein, “aye.” All in favor: 3-0.

A. O'Dwyer made a motion to approve the transfer within the Town Manager's budget: \$11,560 from administration salaries to advertising and legal; M. Meagher seconded. P. Orenstein asked for any discussion – there was none. Roll call vote: M. Meagher, “aye,” A. O'Dwyer, “aye,” P. Orenstein, “aye.” All in favor: 3-0.

A. O'Dwyer made a motion to approve the transfer from the Building and Grounds budget: \$150 from custodial supplies to Parks and Recreation budget – for youth programming; M. Meagher seconded. P. Orenstein asked for any discussion – there was none. Roll call vote: M. Meagher, “aye,” A. O'Dwyer, “aye,” P. Orenstein, “aye.” All in favor: 3-0.

M. Pruhenski stated the transfer sheets are at Town Hall for signature – and three signatures are needed.

**5. Citizen Speak Time** – No citizens asked to speak.

**6. Media Time** – No media asked to speak

P. Orenstein stated the next meeting is July 19 at 6:00pm.

**7. Adjournment** – M. Meagher made a motion to adjourn; A. O'Dwyer seconded. Roll call vote: M. Meagher, “aye,” A. O'Dwyer, “aye,” P. Orenstein, “aye.” All in favor: 3-0. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:18pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Ostrow, Recording Clerk

Approved Sept 19, 2023