



**Town of Amherst
Town Council Meeting
Monday, May 17, 2021
6:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting
Minutes**

*Joint Meeting of Finance and Town Council Complete video is available online:
<https://youtu.be/PHu4qljAuKs>*

Call to Order

Councilors Participating Remotely: Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, Steinberg, Swartz

Councilors Absent: DuMont

Resident Members of the Finance Committee Participating Remotely during the Public Hearing on the Budget: Jane Sheffler, Bernie Kubiak, and Bob Hegner

Others Participating Remotely: Town Manager Paul Bockelman, Clerk of the Council Athena O’Keeffe, Finance Director Sean Mangano, Comptroller Sonia Aldrich, Minute-taker Lindsey McConnell

After confirming all participants could hear and be heard, President Griesemer declared the presence of a quorum, called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. and announced audio and video recording by Amherst Media.

Note: Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, this meeting of the Town Council was conducted via remote participation.

Hearings

a. Public Hearing of the Finance Committee on the FY22 Town Budget – *Charter Sec. 5.5(a)*

Finance Committee Chair Steinberg called the Finance Committee to order at 6:35 p.m. and confirmed non-voting Finance committee members can hear and be heard. Steinberg reviewed the applicable section of the Town Charter that apply to budget process including that this budget does not include the regional schools budget because it is taken up off-schedule due to the nature of the arrangement with partner towns. Steinberg stated the Finance Committee will continue meeting with staff from Town departments and those meetings are posted on the website.

Town Manager Bockelman and Finance Director Sean Mangano gave a brief presentation on the budget:

- The budget and additional info is available on the Town webpage
- The budget is balanced, aligns with goals adopted by the Council, with a modest operating budget increase of 2.1% that allows for a few new initiatives
- Revenues – brief overview
- Expenditures – brief overview

Steinberg opened the public comment section of the meeting.

The following Amherst residents spoke during public comment about funding for the Amherst schools, the Community Safety Working Group’s recommendations, the CRESS Program, reducing funding for the Amherst Police Department, reparations initiatives, climate goals, racial and environmental justice, and rejection of the Town Manager’s proposed budget:

Timmy Sullivan

- Patricia Rector
- Hasini Jayawardena
- Mattea Kramer
- James Cordero
- Zoe Crabtree
- Lev Ben-Ezra
- Isabella Hann
- Lynette Arnold
- Barkha Bhandari
- Robin Suttle
- Katie Koerten
- Curry Kautz
- Adam Gibbs
- Ryan Karb
- Lydia Irons
- Kathleen Traphagen
- Allegra Clark
- Bailey Batty
- Margaret Sawyer
- Maya Hossain
- Katie Lazdowski
- Irv Rhodes
- Megan Lieff
- Anisha
- Maida Ives
- Lexi Monesson-Olson
- Ana Devlin Gauthier
- Artie McCullom
- Jennifer Page
- Mareatha Wallace
- Demetria Shabazz
- Lauren Mills

- Toni Cunningham
- Jonathan Sivel
- Kevin Noonan
- Zoe Abram
- Kaylee Brow
- Kathleen Anderson

Amrita, Seo-Ho, Abigail, Marisol, and Julian, young Amherst residents, spoke about the Amherst Regional School budget, and funding for the Community Safety Working Group recommendations.

With no other people wishing to make a public comment, Steinberg adjourned the Finance Committee public hearing at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Athena O'Keeffe

Clerk of the Council

Record of Agenda Packet Materials and Documents Presented

- 00. 05-17-2021 Draft Motions for Town Council
- 00. 05-17-2021 FINAL Joint Meeting of the Town Council and Finance Committee - Public Hearing on the FY22 Budget
- 00. 05-17-2021 FINAL Town Council Agenda
- 6.a. Resolution Opposing Closure of Gorse Childrens Center as voted by GOL 5-5-21
- 6.b. Race Amity Day 2021 Proclamation as voted by GOL_5-5-21
- 7.a. 20210513 DRAFT Reparatons Report
- 7.a. DRAFT Charge AHRC
- 7.a. H.R.40
- 8.a. BOH - Mosquito Control Vote
- 8.a. Pollinator Resolution - signed
- 8.a. PVMCD Statement
- 8.a. PVMCDPresentation
- 8.b. CO FY22 - 10 Water and Sewer Rates
- 8.b. Water and Sewer Rate Memo 4.8.21
- 8.c. MassWorks_Pomeroy_Presentation_TownCouncil_Jan252021
- 8.c. Pomeroy Village MassWorks Grant Process Memo - 01-04-2021
- 8.d. ADU_Bylaw_Proposal_PlanningBoard_17Feb2021
- 8.d. Supplemental Dwelling Unit Zoning Bylaw Amendments - Memo to Town Council - 05-17-2021
- 8.e. Memo and proposed amended 3.b. Converted Dwelling Bylaw
- 8.f. DRAFT Audit RFP Review Committee Charge - voted by Finance 5-4-21 Reviewed by GOL 5-5-21_CLEAN

8.f. DRAFT Audit RFP Review Committee Charge - voted by Finance 5-4-21 Reviewed by GOL 5-5-21 REDLINED

11.a. 02-16-2021 DRAFT Special Town Council and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

11.b. 05-07-2021 DRAFT Special Town Council and Finance Committee Minutes

11.c. 05-03-21 DRAFT Town Council Minutes

12. Town Manager Report 05-17-2021

2021-05-17 GOL Report to Town Council

CSWG Final Report Part A

Final Report to the CSWG 7GenMC

Finance Committee report 5.17.21

Town Budget FY22 Public Hearing Presentation - 5.13.21