

MINUTES OF THE WARRANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 30, 2021 – 7:00 PM

Colchester Room, Salisbury Town Hall, 5 Beach Road

Meeting was held remotely. The public was able to participate in this hearing by joining the Zoom meeting on the internet at www.zoom.us or via telephone.

Present: Joan Moak, Chairman, Ronald Guilmette, Tom Treat, Angelica Medina, Tom Pease

Also present: Town Manager Neil Harrington, Finance Director Karen and Selectmen Donna Abdulla, Wilma McDonald and Chuck Takesian

1. Call to Order

Vice-Chairman Guilmette called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Moak moved that four sets of Minutes be approved collectively: February 11, June 2, June 9 and October 13, 2020. Ms. Medina seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was taken as follows: Chairman Moak – yes; Mr. Treat - yes; Mr. Pease - yes; Ms. Medina – yes; Vice-Chairman Guilmette – yet. Motion was adopted unanimously.

3. Review of year-to-date revenues and expenditures

Finance Director Karen Snow reported that FY21 revenues were coming in okay. She then went into detail re: the various sources of revenues for the General Fund.

4. Update on three major capital projects:

a. Route 1 sewer expansion. Bridge Road water line, new restrooms/visitors center

The Town Manager gave a lengthy update on the status of each of these projects and answered several questions from members of the Committee.

5. Review first draft of FY2022 Budget

Ms. Snow summarized the proposed budget for FY2022, which includes a projected revenue increase of about \$1.25 million, or slightly above 4%, and budget increases in town operations, fixed costs and schools. She noted that the Triton budget is expected to increase about \$887,000, or over 6%.

6. Review of potential revenue from American Rescue Plan

Mr. Harrington outlined the formula by which funds from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) would be distributed. Salisbury's share is expected to be about \$2.8 million. The funds can be used primarily for three purposes – hiring or extending the employment of workers with tasks directly related to combatting Covid-19 not covered by the federal CARES Act; revenue replacement for regular revenue lost due to Covid;

and investments in water, sewer and broadband infrastructure. Cities and towns have until Dec. 31, 2024 to choose eligible projects and until the end of 2026 to expend the funds. The Selectmen, Finance Director and Town Manager will decide collectively how best to spend the funds expected to come to Salisbury. The Town is waiting for the US Treasury to release guidelines on specifically how the funds can be expended.

7. Discuss/schedule dates for upcoming meetings and public hearings

The Town Manager explained that Town Meeting will be on May 17 and the warrant for Town Meeting needs to be posted by Friday, April 30. There will need to be a public hearing during the first week of May, and the Committee should decide whether it wants to also meet beforehand to go over the draft warrant articles. He noted that Town Hall would be re-opening to the public on April 5, so that in-person meetings can resume. There will need to be a restriction on the number of people in a meeting room, and there is a possibility that the public hearing could be held in a hybrid fashion, with Committee members meeting in person and the public perhaps having the option of testifying on warrant articles remotely.

Vice-Chairman Guilmette proposed April 28 for the next meeting and a public hearing for May 4, and the Committee agreed to hold both meetings at 7:00 PM.

8. Other Business – none

9. Adjournment

Ms. Medina moved that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Mr. Pease. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ms. Medina - yes; Mr. Treat – yes; Chairman Moak – yes; Mr. Pease – yes; Vice-Chairman Guilmette - yes. Motion was adopted unanimously. Vice-Chairman Guilmette adjourned the meeting at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Neil J. Harrington
Town Manager