

Present: Ann Keitner, Patricia-Lee Achorn, Anja Bernier, Brian Collins, Gordon Gladstone, Charles Goodman, Lajos Kamocsay, Daniel Lewenberg, Ira Miller, Olga Volfson.

Not Present: Jada Wang.

Also Present: Krishan Gupta - Finance Director, Fred Turkington – Town Administrator.

1. Ann Keitner, Chair, gave opening remarks

This meeting is being held via remote means through the Zoom online platform pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021.

2. Fiscal Year 2022 Year-End Expenses and Revenue – Krishan Gupta (Finance Director)

General Fund Budget and Transfers:

- a. Total General Fund budget and transfers: \$655,517
 1. Reserve Fund turnback: \$167,037
 2. Insurance subtotal turnback: \$86,592
 3. Special articles, for unemployment, turnback: \$150,000
- b. Total revenues (over budgeted amount): \$1,615,242
- c. Total Excess / (Shortfall) of Receipts Over Expenditures - \$2,270,759 on a budget of \$94,474,589.
- d. Department of Public Works (DPW) absorbed snow and ice expenses within their budget this fiscal year

Local Receipts:

1. Many local receipts came in higher than expected, for a total actual of \$6,967,670.45 against the budgeted amount of \$5,121,700 (136% of Local Receipts budget).

	Budgeted '22	Actual '22
Motor Vehicles Excise Tax	\$2,500,000	\$3,329,715.23
Cannabis Impact Fee	\$220,000	\$753,636.73
Licenses and Permits	\$550,000	\$851,970.10
Department – Schools Medicaid reimbursement	\$100,000	\$375,743.11

2. Discussed that the cannabis impact fees are higher than the excise tax. Mr. Gupta will look into this
3. Working on medical billing, and that each child who received Medicaid gets billed through the state
4. Interest rates on deposits continue to be low. Projected FY 23 investment income of \$750,000 for FY 23 will be reduced, since the actual this year was \$419,457. FY 23 revenue projections will be finalized during the tax rate setting process with the DOR in November.

5. Licenses and permits may have come in higher than expected due to residents doing increased home projects during the pandemic
6. The Tax Recap/Rate Certification with the DOR summarizes all appropriations from Town Meeting as well as revenue sources for the expenditures. Sharon files for the tax recap in November. It is based on certified new growth from the Department of Revenue (DOR). The Tax Rates must be certified by the DOR before tax bills can be sent out.
7. The books for the last fiscal year FY 22 are being reviewed and will be closed out soon. They are subject to the DOR review and external audits.
8. Town of Sharon Reserve Transfer Log:

	Amount of Transfer:	Start - \$800,000. Balance:
Lake Massapoag:	\$17,700	\$782,300
Schools:	\$41,750	\$740,550
School Capital – Heights Parking Lot:	\$261,135	\$479,415
Fire Department:	\$120,000	\$359,415
CVRF Close Out:	\$192,377.72	\$167,037.28
Total:	\$632,962.72	\$167,037.28

3. Free Full-Day Kindergarten Update - Ann Keitner (Chair, Finance Committee)

- a. Ms. Keitner, Mr. Turkington, Mr. Gupta and Mr. Miller will be meeting with representatives from the School Committee and School Department next week to discuss 'big picture' ideas, the previous questions from the Finance Committee and what the school is planning for free full-day kindergarten. Want to hear plan regarding enrollment, if there is an expectation that enrollment will jump once there is no cost, and what the expected impact is on teachers, buildings, etc.
 1. Email Ms. Keitner directly with any specific questions for them
 2. Will hear an update directly from them at the next Finance Committee meeting
- b. Will also meet with School Finance office to determine full cost of the program.

4. Discussion regarding Annual Town Meeting citizen request for Town to provide forward-looking projections around town finances (All Members)

- a. Mr. Gupta discussed the citizen request, originally raised at Town Meeting, that the Town prepare a one-page summary document with line-item projections for the next 5 years
- b. Mr. Gupta requested that a Finance Committee member assist him. Ms. Achorn will work him on this, and Mr. Kamocsay and Mr. Lewenberg are also interested in assisting
- c. Committee members questioned whether other towns do this. Mr. Turkington stated he will reach out to other towns to find out
- d. May want to make this summary more of a narrative, rather than with actuals. Projections will need to be ranges, and there are many factors that influence these numbers. Salaries are the largest budget items and are subject to collective bargaining agreements. The Chair will coordinate with Mr. Gupta and Mr. Turkington for what makes sense to put in the summary.

5. Peer Town Update – Fred Turkington (Town Administrator)

- a. Some shifting of placeholders on the Peer Town update, with one town out and a different town now in. Anomalies in one town's data that Mr. Turkington has reached out to them about
- b. Data downloaded from the State's website. 29 towns, similar and near to Sharon, that were in the parameters of certain items. Not all towns can be directly compared due to some having or not having regional high schools, so may be reported differently
- c. Recognized members that had previously pulled the data and compiled it, because of what a difficult task it was
- d. Some data was from 2013 and 2015. Some data is only updated by the census, some estimated by the state. Mr. Turkington believes it would be beneficial to do this about every 4 years, and he will circulate the findings to other Town committees.

6. Review Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Calendar - Fred Turkington (Town Administrator)

- a. Mr. Turkington discussed that he will circulate the 2024 budget calendar to other committees. It includes meeting schedules for committees, culminating in the Annual Town Meeting on May 1, 2023. Please let him know of any potential conflicts
- b. Same schedule as the previous fiscal year. Should help enable committees to plan.

7. Liaison Updates:

- a. Schools - Ann Keitner:
 - 1. Very positive feedback from students regarding the new high school building
 - 2. Mr. Miller and Ms. Keitner met with Julie Rowe and will continue to meet with her on a monthly basis
 - 3. Will meet regularly going forward, which will hopefully increase collaboration and unify the Town.
- b. Library - Charles Goodman:
 - 1. Still waiting on one piece of litigation which is currently holding up the project. One appeal has been dropped while another is still ongoing
 - 2. Have a call next week where it will be determined if there is appetite for a settlement.
- c. Planning Board – Brian Collins:
 - 1. Planning Board and Select Board filled an open seat by appointing Xander Shapiro
 - 2. In last week's meeting the Chair put a general alert for the possibility of a 2023 meeting tweaks due to zoning bylaw changes.
- d. Standing Building Committee - Gordon Gladstone:
 - 1. Aiming for contractor bid for the library project in time for a Special Town Meeting on December 5, 2022. This is contingent on a lawsuit being finished and a successful bidding process. Need a bid in hand to tell Town residents at Town Meeting
 - 2. At Heights parking lot anticipate they can park 90 cars, which is a significant increase. Currently the project is going on schedule, with completion planned for October. Will get an update at the September 19 Finance Committee meeting
 - 3. Opened the new high school:
 - 1. Supply chain issues and Covid have extended the construction schedule, but the students have been able to start classes and go to assemblies
 - 2. Mr. Gladstone would be happy to arrange a tour of the new building for Committee members

3. Abatement of old building is ongoing for many weeks, but the building will come down soon and a baseball field will be in that spot
 4. Committee members applauded and thanked the Standing Building Committee for their tremendous work on this project.
- e. Community Preservation - Patricia-Lee Achorn:
1. No update, as Committee will not be meeting for at least several months.
- f. Lake Management Study Committee – Dan Lewenberg:
1. This Committee will soon be renamed the Lake Massapoag Committee
 2. Busy summer with expanded testing of lake water for algae levels, etc.
 3. Submitted a proposal for 604B grant asking for \$40,000 for next year, which could be used for testing, assessment of water quality and development of a watershed basin plan. Working with the Neponset Watershed Association and consultant on putting this grant together. The Chair, Laura Russel, and others have worked hard to put this together
 4. Not a lot of stormwater runoff into the lake and haven't seen the blooms we saw last summer. Lake is very nice right now
 5. Testing by the Board of Health and the Lake Management Committee is ongoing at the swimming areas. Also checking water levels.

8. Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair in 48 hours:

- a. Announced upcoming Tri-Board meeting on September 12. Reach out to the Chair with any topics or questions you would like presented at this meeting
- b. September 19 Finance Committee meeting will include a fiscal year update from the Schools, as well as an update on the Heights Parking Lot project
- c. Will know by the end of September if a Special Town Meeting will be held in December
- d. Committee members discussed the costs associated with the high school project. \$102 million spent so far. Will not know what is covered or not covered by the MSBA for at least two years
- e. Need to update to June 27, 2022 meeting minutes to correct the name of the Lake Management Study Committee and to reflect that Mr. Turkington is not on the Select Board.

Motioned: by Patricia-Lee Achorn, **Seconded:** Gordon Gladstone to approve the May 23, 2022 meeting minutes as written. **Voted:** 9-0-0. Olga Volfson did not vote as she was not a sworn Committee member at the May 23, 2022 meeting.

Motioned: by Gordon Gladstone, **Seconded:** Anja Bernier to approve the June 27, 2022 meeting minutes with the noted corrections. **Voted:** 9-1-0. Patricia-Lee Achorn abstained.

9. Adjournment:

Absent any objection, the Chair assumed unanimous consent to adjourn for the evening.

Adjourned at 9:06 pm.