

**TOWN OF LAKEVILLE**  
**Finance Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**March 7, 2022 – 6:30 PM**  
**REMOTE LOCATION**

On March 7, 2022, the Finance Committee held a meeting with the Select Board at 7:00 PM remotely from various locations. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Beals. Members present were Darren Beals, Chairman, Brian Day, Katie Desrosiers, Larry Kostant and Adam Lynch. Also present were the Select Board Members: Evagelia Fabian, Chair, Richard LaCamera and Lorraine Carboni. Ari Sky, Town Administrator, Todd Hassett, Town Accountant and Tracie Craig-McGee, Executive Assistant were also present. LakeCAM was recording the meeting for broadcast.

In accordance with provisions allowed by Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, the March 7, 2022 public meeting of the Finance Committee will be held remotely. **However, to view this meeting in progress, please go to [facebook.com/lakecam](https://www.facebook.com/lakecam) (you do not need a Facebook account to view the meeting). This meeting will be recorded and available to be viewed at a later date at <http://www.lakecam.tv/>.**

**Meet with Select Board to review FY23 Budget Update; Capital Plan and Debt Schedule**

Mr. Sky said we have some revisions to the budget. The major variables are still the Schools, although we have indications that the F/L Regional budget will move in a good direction.

Mr. Hassett said once the Regional School budget is firmer, we will give you a new version of the budget. He has provided what the changes were on the first page bottom, based on the three (3) budget meetings in February and additional work on the budget. Under sources of funds, there was a net reduction of \$30,000 relating to the Governor's budget being released. We are hopeful at the Senate and House Level that there will be some improvement in aid. Under Uses, we received the debt assessment for the Regional School regarding the allocation between Freetown and Lakeville, where there is a \$15,000 swing. We took a harder look at the Veteran's Budget and recommend a \$45,000 decrease in the budget. It would not be in terms of benefit and claims, but the State related reimbursement would suggest that our claims are substantially less than the budget. There was a savings of about \$18,000 in group health insurance rates. Three (3) pending things that we hope to wrap up are the F/L operating assessment; a modest fund subsidy from the General Fund of \$17,500; and we are working with Assessors' Office regarding some software that will require a modest increase in their expense line. Mr. Hassett said in New Growth, preliminary indications are that our number is a bit conservative. Changes are highlighted in the FY23 column. We are fairly confident that we will be presenting another version that will be fully balanced and fundable. Mr. Day asked about the \$500,000 reduction in the Stabilization Fund? Mr. Hassett said we have not been adding to it; we have been adding to the Debt Stabilization Fund.

Mr. Hassett presented a rework of the first version of the 5-year Capital Plan. In the FY23 column, we have a few items that we are not planning on going before the May Annual Town Meeting. The #1 items (Fire and Public Works) we will bring forward at the Special Town Meeting. We are planning on fully funding those items from balances of prior capital items not used. The other item under Select Board relates to Town Hall/Fire Station design. The feasibility study will not be completed in time to be presented at the May Town Meeting. We hope to be better prepared for fall Special Town Meeting and have modified the amount that we might need for preliminary design.

Should the Town want to pursue it in the fall, we have outlined placeholder numbers for FY25. Other changes are we have moved up Public Works facility improvements with a placeholder of \$500,000. Initially we thought we would put \$700,000 in Stabilization. We opted to apply \$500,000 of Free Cash. On page 2, we have added in a new section for the Cemetery Commission of \$65,000 to complete the historic posts and fence for Thompson Cemetery. We would ask the Town to consider this for Year 2. Under Park Commission, we have eliminated two (2) items regarding lighting. Middleborough G&E will be taking care of those projects this year. The building at Jon Paun Park will be demolished and the Town will consider a new building in another year. That number was reduced \$50,000. Under Fire Department, the Chief has proposed replacing a ladder truck. It is an approximate lead time of 24 months for delivery. We can lock in interest rates through a lease program when we place the order. We need to discuss if we will pursue this in May or consider another time. We have folded the lease costs into the debt plan. Page 3 we provided the Debt History back to FY20; the proposed debt in FY23 and the remaining years of the plan. Mr. Hassett summarized the debt that is coming off the debt schedule over the next few years. We have the debt for the Route 79 project. We have modeled in possible construction and design costs for the Fire Station and Town Hall, which would require Town Meeting and Election approval. The Homeowner Septic Loan program is fully funded by the homeowners for repairs to their septic system. There is no tax impact. Within the levy limit, we have modeled in costs associated with the window project at Assawompset School, which was approved for feasibility only at Town Meeting. We will be coming back at Special Town Meeting in the fall for the construction. We have folded in the ladder truck lease payment in FY26 and possible fire engine in FY27. The last page gives historical context on the levy limit. We were asked if we had the ability to take on these projects. We have tried to model this to show that over the next few years, we can fold this into the operating budget and be way under what the industrial expects to be paid towards Debt Service.

Mr. Sky said we looked at Debt Service within the levy limit. It is up compared to FY22 and FY23, but that is a low number. He summarized the debt history. Ms. Desrosiers asked when the ambulance come off. Mr. Hassett said every three (3) years we purchase a new ambulance, so it is a continual cycle. Mr. Hassett said the Town receives over \$900,000 a year in ambulance revenue. Mr. Day asked what is the industry standard for debt. Mr. Hassett said typically 5-10%. A large facility project, like a school, can affect that, which would be excluded debt. Mr. Sky said there are three (3) major criteria relating to debt: debt % capita income, debt % to assessed valuation (levy limit) and debt service as a % of revenue budget. He likes to look at levy limit or per capita income regarding affordability. Using per capita, debt would be very healthy. The 10% usually applies to debt service as a percentage to revenue or valuation, but we are well below that. Mr. Hassett said the industry also looks at debt as a percentage of equalized property valuation. Five (5) percent of our EQV is \$102 million, right now we have \$8 million issued.

Member Carboni asked if Old Colony Regional is looking at a building project? Mr. Sky said yes; they are invited to apply for a feasibility study and it would be excluded debt. They are looking at a new school. Member LaCamera said the earliest that they could apply for a feasibility study is July 1, 2024. We are looking at five (5) to six (6) years out for a project. He said the Capital Expenditures Committee is meeting tomorrow. Mr. Sky said he is hoping that by March 21<sup>st</sup> we will have more information on the Department of Public Works Building. We would like to meet with the Finance Committee again that night. Mr. Hassett said we have a deficit in snow and ice so we will be bringing an article to Special Town Meeting to close that shortfall. We have a few other smaller budget issues that are minor, which we will bring for a transfer, either reserve or Interdepartmental.

**Approve Finance Committee Minutes of February 7, 2022; February 8, 2022 and February 9, 2022**

Chairman Beals said the Finance Committee needed to approve some minutes.

Upon a motion made by Chairman Beals and seconded by Mr. Kostant, it was:

VOTED: To approve the Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of February 7, 2022.  
Roll call vote: Mr. Kostant – aye; Ms. Desrosiers – abstain; Mr. Lynch – aye; Mr. Day – aye and Chairman Beals – aye.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Desrosiers and seconded by Mr. Day, it was:

VOTED: To approve the Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of February 8, 2022.  
Roll call vote: Ms. Desrosiers – aye; Mr. Day - abstain; Mr. Kostant – aye; Mr. Lynch – aye and Chairman Beals – aye.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Desrosiers and seconded by Mr. Day, it was:

VOTED: To approve the Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of February 9, 2022.  
Roll call vote: Ms. Desrosiers – aye; Mr. Kostant - aye; Mr. Lynch – aye; Mr. Day - aye and Chairman Beals – aye.

**Adjournment**

Upon a motion made by Chairman Beals and seconded by Ms. Desrosiers, it was:

VOTED: To adjourn the Finance Committee Meeting at 7:41 PM.  
Roll call vote: Mr. Kostant – aye; Ms. Desrosiers – abstain; Mr. Lynch – aye; Mr. Day – aye and Chairman Beals – aye.

**List of documents provided at the Finance Committee Meeting of March 7, 2022**

1. Updated FY23 budget pages, FY23 Capital Plan; Debt Schedule
2. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of February 7, 2022; February 8, 2022; and February 9, 2022