

Advisory Finance Committee: March 8, 2022 Meeting Minutes

A joint meeting for Fiscal Year 2023 Budget review was held with the Petersham Selectboard ("SB") and the Advisory Finance Committee ("AFC") on Tuesday March 8, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. AFC Members present at this meeting were; Richard Cavanaugh, Mark Bishop, and Jim Dowd.

Members of the selectboard and AFC and SB welcomed Tally Lent, who is considering serving on the AFC, to the meeting and encouraged her to ask questions through its course.

The SB and AFC first reviewed the proposed budget submitted by the Petersham Memorial Library. The library submitted a budget request of \$9,910, which is the minimum contribution from the town needed to maintain the Library's affiliation with the Massachusetts Library Association.

Ellen Anderson and Andrea Gale represented the Board of Assessors in submitting the Assessors' budget request for FY23. The Board of Assessors is seeking an increase of \$1,180, mostly from increased software costs and an office cell phone budget request. The Assessors also submitted some suggested language for a warrant article regarding the \$5,000 annual cost for the Full Measure and List of Real Estate and Personal Property as required by state law. Members of the SB and AFC determined that there should be reference made in the warrant article that the \$5,000 refers to year three of a five-year commitment in the maintenance of this information.

The SB and AFC next considered the Cemetery Commission budget, which is level-funded from last year. There was a general discussion regarding tree work at the cemeteries, and Ms. Allen reported that tree work at the cemeteries and been paid last year from the general tree work budget.

Ms. Allen provided an overview of a portion of the areas that fall within the Selectboard budget.

The next regular Selectboard and Advisory Finance Committee meeting date is scheduled for Tuesday, March 15, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. The AFC adjourned their meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted;
Richard Cavanaugh

Approved 3/15/2022