

Spencer Finance Committee Joint with Board of Selectmen
March 21, 2023, 7:00 PM
Spencer Town Hall, Conference Room A
157 Main Street, Spencer, MA 01562

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://www.gotomeet.me/TownofSpencerMA/finance-committee>

You can also dial in using your phone. United States

(Toll Free): [1 877 309 2073](tel:18773092073) Access Code: 242-835-725

The meeting will not be broadcast live. It will be recorded for later on Spencer Cable Access channel 194 or at SCATV.org

Minutes

- 1) Call meeting to order 7:02 pm

Members attending: Mary Braney; Chair, Bill Wall; Clerk, Chris Bowen, Mike Grames (R), Paul McLaughlin, Charles O'Connor, Ed Sproul, Jonathan Viner, BOS Gary Woodbury (R), John Howard, Jared Grigg, Ralph Hicks, and Tony Pepe (R), Jeff Bridges; Town Administrator, and Bill Shemeth; Town Moderator. Not present Virginia Davidson, Nancy Tame and Chris Woodbury. (R) = Remote.

- 2) Announcement: The meeting will be held in person however members may opt to participate remotely per updated guidance. For this meeting, should any member choose to participate remotely all votes will be taken by roll call in accordance with Regulation 940, CMR 29.10 of the Open Meeting Law.
- 3) Budget Presentations from:
- a) Dr. Paul Haughey, Superintendent; Mr. Gary Suter, Business Manager, SEBRSD
Dr Haughey and Mr. Suter presented the Chapter 90 calculations for the school district as well as the budget for FY 2024. They also reviewed the need for the added positions.
 - b) Ms. Rebecca Forand, Treasurer-Collector
Ms. Forand presented the treasurer's budget and explained to the committee the challenges she faces.
 - c) Ms. Sandy Fritze, Town Clerk
Ms. Fitze presented the budget for the town clerk's office and explained the challenges the dept faces with the increase of vote by mail as well as early voting.
 - d) Ms. Linda LeBlanc, Principal Assessor
Ms. LeBlanc presented the Board of Assessors budget.
 - e) Ms. April Caruso, Director, COA
Ms. Caruso presented the Council on Aging budget. She was very happy to report that attendance has doubled in the last year and that they are able to sponsor many activities for the seniors due to many volunteers and grants that they receive.
- 4) FY 2024 Budget update Town Administrator Report

Jeff Bridges is working on the union contracts and is hoping by next meeting to have some budget number updates for us. He is also hoping to have a draft of the town warrant available.
Jeff provided a handout for the "Proposal for Codification Services" provided by General Code. He suggests that the town get involved with this service. This will provide the Town with an up to date document with all of Spencer's General Bylaws, Zoning Bylaws and other legislation in one document to be updated as needed. There will be an article on the warrant.

Selectmen may choose to adjourn. 8:45 pm

Ralph Hicks made the motion and Jared Grigg seconded the motion. On a roll call vote all were in favor.

- 5) Minutes of February 28, 2023, and March 16, 2023, Finance Committee meetings

Ed Sproul made a motion to approve the minutes from the 2/28/23 meeting. Paul McLaughlin seconded the motion.

On a roll call vote, MB-Aye, BW-Aye, CB-Aye, MG-Aye, PM-Aye, CO-Aye, ES-Aye, JV-Aye. The motion passed.

6) Correspondence
Beacon

7) Liaison Reports
CIPC – Chris Woodbury: Not present.

8) Any other

There will be an article on the warrant concerning the town's takeover of Pine Grove Cemetery.

9) Adjourn 9:16 pm

Charles O'Connor made the motion; Paul McLaughlin seconded the motion. On a roll call vote all were in favor.

Next Finance Committee joint with Board of Selectmen meeting March 28, 2023

Mar. 28, 2023: **Finance Committee - Joint with Board of Selectmen: 7PM** - Budget Presentations from Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School; Utilities & Facilities (Water, Highway, Transfer Station), Sewer; Review ATM Warrant

Apr. 11, 2023: **Finance Committee: Public Hearing on FY2024 Budget** and Vote Recommendations on Annual Town Meeting Warrant

May 04, 2023: **Annual Town Meeting**

May 09, 2023: **Annual Town Election**

Documents Referenced: Spencer East Brookfield Regional School District Chapter 70 presentation, Mass Dept of Education regional district summary, Spencer East Brookfield Cover Letter, Spencer East Brookfield Regional School District 2024 Operating Budget, Spencer East Brookfield Assessment Calculation, David Prouty High School Class of 2022, Treasurer 2024 Budget, Town Collector 2022 report on Revenues, Summary report of the Town Clerk, Town Clerk 2024 budget, Board of Assessors Summary Report, Board of Assessors 2024 budget, Counsel on Aging Summary Report, Council on Aging 2024 Budget, Proposal for Codification Services.

Respectfully submitted,

William J Wall, Jr.