

Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 24, 2021
7:30 PM

Present: Christine Russell (Vice-Chair), Roland Bourdon, Jason Cole, Mike Majors, Christi Andersen, Steve Noone, and David Wellinohoff

Ms. Russell called the meeting to order.

1. Citizen's Concerns

None

2. Finance Review

None

3. Regional Emergency Communication Center

Town Manager, Mr. Mangiaratti presented information regarding a grant received to study the feasibility of regionalizing Acton and Concord dispatch services. The study showed the ability to provide streamlined services, professional development and receive greater state funding by regionalizing. Select Boards of both towns approved the governance agreement. A grant to \$900k was received to develop the plan to merge the towns into a new district. A project manager will be used to implement the plan and an executive director will be hired to oversee the district. The estimated annual cost savings would be approx. \$375k. The goal is to have the district up and running by year end 2022.

Finance Committee member made comments and asked question regarding the following:

Cost savings versus increased services and how the assessment is estimated to be lower due to increased state funding and how long such funding would last.

Questions were raised regarding staffing levels. Mr., Mangiaratti explained how the reporting structure would work and commented that the regionalization was not an effort to reduce headcount.

The district will be located at the Acton PSF and will lease the space from Acton.

Pensions and OPEB liabilities will be determined during implementation and transferred at the appropriate time.

In response to questions regarding the advantages and disadvantages of regionalizing Mr. Mangiaratti went over the increase in public safety, economies of scale and better communication during emergency responses. Mr. Mangiaratti doesn't see any loss of autonomy as dispatch response is very standardized around the state.

Finance Committee expressed concern that this agreement was made without their input. They have asked that future projects, with a financial impact, be brought to the committee so that they may better advise the Select Board and Town Meeting.

4. Point of View (POV)

Members reviewed and discussed the first draft of the Point of View with a goal of reducing the number of slides and updating slides with current data. Members shared information and statistics they would like to see added. Some slides will be hidden and only spoken to. It was also discussed providing a narrative to be published in the Beacon.

5. Finance Committee Business

Mr. Noone thanked Ms. Andersen for her past service as committee chair.

Mr. Wellinghoff moved to adjourn. Mr. Cole seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting

- Point of View