

Winthrop Finance Commission Minutes

Date: Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at 6:00pm
Attendees: TOW: Steve Calla (SC), Robbie Powers (RP),
FC: Karin Chavis (KC), William Gault (WG), Matt Gorzkowicz (MG), Hannah Belcher (HB), John DaRos (JD), Shannon Poulos (SP), Joe Hanlon (JH)
Absent: Max Tassinari, John Macero, Brent Farrell
Other: Jim Letterie (JL), Suzanne Swope (SS)

Meeting called to order at 6:07 pm by MG.

Rollcall vote completed by KC. All present except individuals noted above.

Presentation & Discussion: DPW Budgets and Enterprise Funds by Steve Calla

- Cemetery
 - Budget increased 9.7% due to personnel and materials increases
 - Tree warden stipend increased to \$10K for retention
 - Importance of continued tree planting and maintenance for airport hazard mitigation
 - Replaced most of the aging fencing around older section of cemetery
 - Still have 650 feet of fencing on cross street to replace
 - Have been using aluminum fencing which is cheaper than iron
- Building Maintenance
 - Budget increased 3.5% due to personnel and materials increases
 - Takes care of custodial services for many town buildings (Town Hall, Library, PD, Senior Center)
 - Natural Gas expenditure increased slightly due to higher costs
 - PD building is costly to maintain
 - EB Newton maintenance covered by revolving fund
- Vehicles
 - Purchased new vac truck and trash compactor, will keep old equipment as backup
- Snow & Ice
 - Can legally be underfunded in budget; budget for \$135K, typically spend ~\$300K
 - Difference made up by free cash and other turn backs
- Water & Sewer Enterprise funds
 - Increase of 1.6% due to MWRA assessment increase
 - Continuing repairs to Water Tower as needed due to leaky roof
 - Lead line replacements continue; still on phase I lead services (full), then will move to phase 2 (partial)
 - Same commercial/residential water rates as to not overburden small businesses
 - Have ONE meter for water and sewer
 - Water loss is down to 14% (from 25%)
- Solid Waste
 - Signed 5 year contract with Capital Waste
 - Still moving towards 'pay as you throw' system
 - Decreasing town's contribution to enterprise fund
 - Need to increase user fee by \$30 (this is factored in to budget projections)
 - Housing Authority still not paying for all services used

General Committee Discussion

- MG going to send around last year's recommendations

- Will start list of items that have come up in discussion
- Significant concern for DPH loss of grants (also impacts WPD)
 - How to move forward if grants do not come back
- Need to look at contract negotiations for schools
- IT expenses should be looked at for efficiencies
- Get questions for the schools to Matt to send to Lisa by Monday
- JD highlights including climate commissions plan in capital plan

KC motioned to adjourn; HB seconded. Approved by all present members.

Meeting adjourned at 7:47.