

Finance Committee Meeting

November 23, 2020 6:30 PM EST
Zoom Remote Meeting Platform
Millis, MA 02054

In Attendance:

Jodie Garzon, Chairman
Peter Berube, Vice Chairman
Doug Riley, Clerk
Cathy MacInnes
Katie Tieu
Michael Guzinski, Town Administrator
James McKay, DPW Director
Sue McAvoy, Oak Grove Farm Commission Member

Jodie Garzon called the Finance Committee Meeting to order at 6:38 PM.

Reserve Fund Transfer Request:

Mike Guzinski thanked the Finance Committee for meeting; it's greatly appreciated. As most of you are aware there was a very powerful storm that resulted in severe damage to trees and properties throughout town. The tree damage at Oak Grove Farm was quite extensive. There was property damage to the Oak Grove Farmhouse as well, that damage will be covered by the Town's Insurance Policy. Unfortunately, tree damage is not covered under that policy; cleanup and removal are the town's responsibility.

The site was surveyed by the Town Administrator, DPW Director, members of the Oak Grove Farm Commission and Historical Commission. A scope of work was developed and several tree companies provided a quote. The lowest quote was from Stumpy's Tree Service, \$14,000.00. It was noted that the scope of work does not include all of the damage at Oak Grove Farm but the more urgent needs. Reserve Fund Transfer Requests are not intended to fund a broader scale project; this request is being made in order to provide the Millis residents with access to the facilities provided at the farm.

The Select Board met last Monday and agreed to forward this request to the Finance Committee for their review and consideration. It is anticipated that a Warrant Article will be presented at the Spring 2021 Town Meeting to address the need for tree care throughout town.

Peter Berube inquired if the scope of work included stump grinding. Mike Guzinski responded that stump grinding will be included in terms of safety; upper athlete fields and playground area.

Peter Berube made a motion to recommend approval of a Reserve Fund Transfer in the amount of \$14,000.00 for tree removal on an emergency basis at Oak Grove Farm; Katie Tieu seconded. Roll Call Vote: Roll Call Vote: Doug Riley - aye, Cathy MacInnes - aye, Jodie Garzon – aye and Katie Tieu – aye, Peter Berube – aye. Motion carries.

Mike Guzinski thanked the committee for their time and setting up a special meeting for this request.

Meeting Minutes Approval:

Doug Riley made a motion to approve the November 4, 2020 Meeting Minutes; Peter Berube seconded. Roll Call Vote: Doug Riley - aye, Cathy MacInnes - aye, Jodie Garzon – aye and Katie Tieu – aye, Peter Berube – aye. Motion carries.

Old Business/New Business:

Jodie Garzon made the committee aware that there may be a Tri-Board Meeting scheduled for early to mid-January to begin discussions on the FY22 Operating Budget.

Adjourn:

Peter Berube made a motion to adjourn the Finance Committee Meeting at 6:45 PM; Doug Riley seconded. Vote: 5/0 motion carries unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Deirdre Gilmore

DRAFT