

FINANCE COMMITTEE

TOWN HALL BUILDING
8 PARK STREET

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 13, 2015, 6:00 p.m.

Select Board Meeting Room, 1st Floor Town Hall, Adams MA

On the above date and time, the **Finance Committee** held a meeting in the **Adams Town Hall, 1st Floor Meeting Room**. **Chairman Tim Burdick** presided the Meeting. Present were **Members Craig Corrigan, Paul Demastrie, Joan Smigel, Amy Giroux, Sandy Kleiner, David Allen, Brian Johnson, Leon Parrott, Rachel Tomkowicz, Matt Pitoniak and Fred Hobart**. Absent were Members John Lawson, Greg Tremblay, and Charles Foster.

The Finance Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- March 10, 2015
- March 11, 2015
- March 12, 2015
- March 18, 2015
- March 26, 2015

Motion made by Member Allen to approve the minutes

Second by Member Hobart

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

A Special Town Meeting has been scheduled for **April 30, 2015, 7:00 p.m.** at **C.T. Plunkett School**.

Article 1

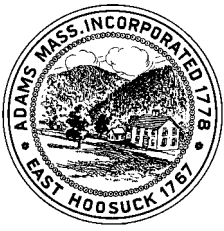
To see if the Town will vote to grant an easement and a declaration of a restrictive covenant to Massachusetts Electric Company with respect to property off Columbia Street in Adams, Massachusetts and to record a Notice of Activity and Use Limitation in regard to said property, or take other action in relation thereto.

Motion made by Member Allen to recommend Article 1

Second by Member Parrott

Unanimous vote

Motion passed



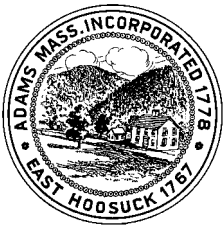
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Article 2

To see if the Town will vote to accept, acquire or take by eminent domain several easements necessary for the construction and maintenance of the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail Extension Project (from Hoosac Street to Lime Street), or take any other action in relation thereto:

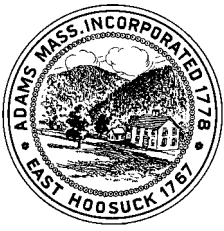
- 1. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept, acquire or take by eminent domain easements to a parcel of land from ARC RAADMMA001, LLC, at no cost to the Town, for the purpose of construction and maintenance of the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail Extension Project in accordance with plans entitled "Ashuwillticook Rail Trail in the Town of Adams, Berkshire County, Preliminary Right of Way," (Federal Aid Project No. 608071)," prepared by Nitsch Engineering for MassDOT, dated March 16, 2015, under terms and conditions that the Board of Selectmen deems in the best interest of the Town, or take any other actions in relation thereto.*
- 2. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept, acquire or take by eminent domain easements to a parcel of land from Northern Berkshire Electric Company, at no cost to the Town, for the purpose of construction and maintenance of the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail Extension Project in accordance with plans entitled "Ashuwillticook Rail Trail in the Town of Adams, Berkshire County, Preliminary Right of Way," (Federal Aid Project No. 608071)," prepared by Nitsch Engineering for MassDOT, dated March 16, 2015, under terms and conditions that the Board of Selectmen deems in the best interest of the Town, or take any other actions in relation thereto.*
- 3. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept, acquire or take by eminent domain easements to a parcel of land from MountainOne, at no cost to the Town, for the purpose of construction and maintenance of the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail Extension Project in accordance with plans entitled "Ashuwillticook Rail Trail in the Town of Adams, Berkshire County, Preliminary Right of Way," (Federal Aid Project No. 608071)," prepared by Nitsch Engineering for MassDOT, dated March 16, 2015, under terms and conditions that the Board of Selectmen deems in the best interest of the Town, or take any other actions in relation thereto.*
- 4. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept, acquire or take by eminent domain easements to a parcel of land from Joseph Biros, at no cost to the Town, for the purpose of construction and maintenance of the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail Extension Project in accordance with plans entitled "Ashuwillticook Rail Trail in the Town of Adams, Berkshire County, Preliminary Right of Way," (Federal Aid Project No. 608071)," prepared by Nitsch Engineering for MassDOT, dated March 16, 2015, under*



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- terms and conditions that the Board of Selectmen deems in the best interest of the Town, or take any other actions in relation thereto.*
5. *To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept, acquire or take by eminent domain easements to a parcel of land from Daniel Saliba, at no cost to the Town, for the purpose of construction and maintenance of the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail Extension Project in accordance with plans entitled "Ashuwillticook Rail Trail in the Town of Adams, Berkshire County, Preliminary Right of Way," (Federal Aid Project No. 608071)," prepared by Nitsch Engineering for MassDOT, dated March 16, 2015, under terms and conditions that the Board of Selectmen deems in the best interest of the Town, or take any other actions in relation thereto.*
 6. *To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept, acquire or take by eminent domain easements to a parcel of land from Richard T. and Josephine Dean, at no cost to the Town, for the purpose of construction and maintenance of the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail Extension Project in accordance with plans entitled "Ashuwillticook Rail Trail in the Town of Adams, Berkshire County, Preliminary Right of Way," (Federal Aid Project No. 608071)," prepared by Nitsch Engineering for MassDOT, dated March 16, 2015, under terms and conditions that the Board of Selectmen deems in the best interest of the Town, or take any other actions in relation thereto.*
 7. *To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept, acquire or take by eminent domain easements to a parcel of land from Nancy Montgomery, at no cost to the Town, for the purpose of construction and maintenance of the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail Extension Project in accordance with plans entitled "Ashuwillticook Rail Trail in the Town of Adams, Berkshire County, Preliminary Right of Way," (Federal Aid Project No. 608071)," prepared by Nitsch Engineering for MassDOT, dated March 16, 2015, under terms and conditions that the Board of Selectmen deems in the best interest of the Town, or take any other actions in relation thereto.*
 8. *To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept, acquire or take by eminent domain easements to a parcel of land from Edward J. Ostrowski, at no cost to the Town, for the purpose of construction and maintenance of the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail Extension Project in accordance with plans entitled "Ashuwillticook Rail Trail in the Town of Adams, Berkshire County, Preliminary Right of Way," (Federal Aid Project No. 608071)," prepared by Nitsch Engineering for MassDOT, dated March 16, 2015, under terms and conditions that the Board of Selectmen deems in the best interest of the Town, or take any other actions in relation thereto.*



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9. *To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept, acquire or take by eminent domain easements to a parcel of land from Melissa I. Murphy, at no cost to the Town, for the purpose of construction and maintenance of the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail Extension Project in accordance with plans entitled "Ashuwillticook Rail Trail in the Town of Adams, Berkshire County, Preliminary Right of Way," (Federal Aid Project No. 608071)," prepared by Nitsch Engineering for MassDOT, dated March 16, 2015, under terms and conditions that the Board of Selectmen deems in the best interest of the Town, or take any other actions in relation thereto.*
10. *To see if the Town will vote to authorize to convey easements to a parcel of land from the Inhabitants of the Town of Adams, at no cost to the Town, for the purpose of construction and maintenance of the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail Extension Project in accordance with plans entitled "Ashuwillticook Rail Trail in the Town of Adams, Berkshire County, Preliminary Right of Way," (Federal Aid Project No. 608071)," prepared by Nitsch Engineering for MassDOT, dated March 16, 2015, under terms and conditions that the Board of Selectmen deems in the best interest of the Town, or take any other actions in relation thereto.*

Motion made by Member Allen to recommend Article 2

Second by Member Johnson

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

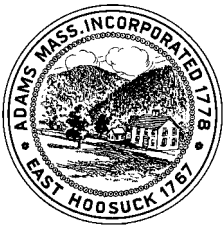
Article 3

To see if the Town will vote to initiate the process to aggregate electrical load pursuant to M.G.L. c. 164, § 134 and, further, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has engaged in a process to establish a competitive market place through the restructuring of the electricity market; and

WHEREAS, citizens of Adams have a substantial economic and social interest in terms of greater customer choice and opportunities for savings in this restructured market; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Adams hereby finds that it may be in the interest of its citizens who are electric ratepayers, both residential and commercial/industrial, to develop and secure such approvals and enter into appropriate agreements with consultants, experts and attorneys in connection with the establishment and operation of an electricity aggregation plan.



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BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Town of Adams hereby:

Publicly declares its intent to become an aggregator of electric power on behalf of its residential and business electric customers and to reestablish such plan if its operation is suspended; and

To negotiate and enter into such contracts for power supply pursuant to the plan or services for such plan, with the understanding that if a power supply contract is executed, individual consumers would retain the option not to participate in the aggregation plan and, instead, to choose any electricity alternatives they desire and, further, to take such other action relative hereto as may be appropriate and necessary.

Town Administrator Mazzucco gave an overview of the *Municipal Aggregation Program* and how it works. He fielded questions from the Finance Committee and explained that the Town would work with electricity providers to get the best rate for the citizens. Citizens have the ability to opt out of the aggregation price if they wish.

Motion made by Member Allen to recommend Article 3

Second by Member Corrigan

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

RESERVE FUND TRANSFER REQUESTS

A request was made for \$27,000 from the Reserve Fund to go to the Highway Department for the Overtime Budget.

Town Administrator Mazzucco and **Town Accountant Mary Beverly** explained the need for this amount to get through until June 30, 2015, and it represents the average overtime projected.

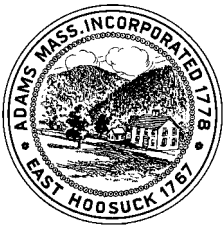
The money not used on salt this year will be used to fill the salt shed and also the Town hopes to find alternative providers for next year. The State contracted at the lowest price but had trouble getting salt delivered to the towns in Berkshire County, causing concerns about the levels of ice. There is a significant amount of sand on the roads currently because the salt had to be cut with sand because there was not enough to get through the storms. The Town is not allowed to apply for State emergency funding from the storms because they did not meet the criteria.

Motion made by Member Allen to approve the transfer of \$27,000 in Reserve Funds to the Highway Department Overtime Budget

Second by Member Parrott

Unanimous vote

Motion passed



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A request was made for \$3,000 from the Reserve Fund to go to the Highway Department Permanent Budget

Town Administrator Mazzucco explained that due to the retirement of Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent Fijal and the unexpected passing away of Dick Biros, the Town would bring back Joe Fijal until end of year to absorb vacation costs, and maintain reporting operations until end of year.

The Reserve Fund would be at approximately \$40,000 if all items are approved. This is historically at the level it has been at this time of year for the last few years. There was discussion about strategy for putting money into the stabilization fund.

Motion made by Member Allen to approve the transfer of \$3,000 to the Highway Department Permanent Budget

Second by Member Parrott

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

A request was made for \$3,892 from the Reserve Fund to go to the Council on Aging Department in the Temporary Services Budget.

Town Administrator Mazzucco explained this is a continuation of a previous Reserve Fund request for expenses related to an employee who is out on extended medical leave, causing an increase in need for temporary salaries. This budget amount is expected to reset on July 1, 2015.

Motion by Member Allen

Second by Member Johnson

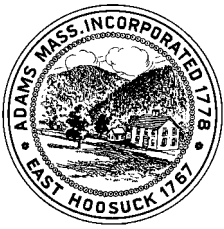
Unanimous vote

Motion passed

TOWN FY2016 BUDGET REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND VOTE

Chairman Burdick gave an overview of the process and explained things are being done differently this year. There were 3 public meetings and a public forum for Adams Cheshire Regional School District, so all department heads gave presentations to both the Finance Committee and the Select Board. The Budget being reviewed was the Select Board's adopted Budget. The Finance Committee did not go through each individual budget line, but instead did a "consent" agenda. Each category was explained and the Finance Committee Members were given the opportunity to request each section to be held for further discussion and voted on separately if they wished. Sections not held would be voted on as a whole.

General discussion followed. Any newly opened positions will be evaluated for its necessity for continued operations within the Town going forward.



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The following Budget Sections were requested to be held for discussion prior to voting:

- **Executive**, by Member Johnson regarding Reserve Funds
- **Finance and Technology**, by Member Johnson
- **Public Safety**, by Member Tomkowicz
- **Public Buildings**, by Member Corrigan
- **Public Works**, by Member Corrigan
- **Regional Schools**, by Chairman Burdick.

The following Budget Sections were not held prior to voting:

- **General Government**
- **Community Development**
- **Public Service**
- **Public Health**

Motion made by Member Corrigan Craig to approve the FY2016 Budgets for General Government, Community Development, Public Service, and Public Health

Second by Member Allen

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

EXECUTIVE BUDGET

Accountant Mary Beverly advised over the last couple years the Reserve Fund Budget has been at \$175,000 because the Budget has been tightened up and there is a little room in case of emergency.

Motion made by Member Allen to approve the Executive Budget for FY2016

Second by Member Giroux

Unanimous vote

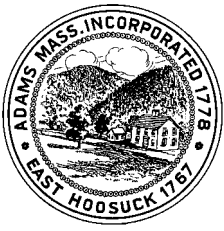
Motion passed

FINANCE AND TECHNOLOGY

A question was asked about what the current retirement and employee expenses are for health insurance.

Town Accountant Beverly advised the amount would have been about \$415,000 but shifted from 75/25 to 70/30 for the retirees.

Town Administrator Mazzucco explained that insurance costs went up by 15% and plan changes throughout the year cannot always be anticipated. He advised the Town is looking at plan design changes, though a better rate is not likely since the Town will not get insurance less than its claims history. The Town would like to move to a higher deductible with healthcare reimbursement accounts and is moving to shift to changing split accounts.



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Motion made to approve the Finance and Technology Budget by Member Allen

Second by Member Johnson

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

PUBLIC SAFETY

A question was asked about whether the Town really needed a new cruiser, since one was recently purchased.

Town Administrator Mazzucco explained the cruiser replacement plan and how purchasing none reduces stability of the plan. The Police Department maintains an 8 or 9 cruiser fleet, and will always be replacing one or two a year. The plan would maintain one per year, because older cruisers risk not working when they are needed and increase by \$3,000 to \$4,000 on average for maintenance costs. 5 cruisers are currently in regular use, a 6th is the designated K-9 and others are unmarked or supervisor vehicles. This is an adequate fleet size for now but the Town may eventually reduce the unmarked fleet. Jumping on and off of the purchasing program causes instability, and would require a new program be considered. Overtime controls are in place and the Police Department will be up to full staffing by end of year.

Member Kleiner advised the Board she had a potential conflict as her husband was represented in this section of the Budget.

Motion made by Member Allen to approve the Public Safety Budget for FY2016.

Second by Member Parrott

Member Kleiner abstained

Voted In favor: Chairman Burdick and Members Corrigan, Demastrie, Smigel, Giroux, Allen, Johnson, Parrott, Tomkowicz, Pitoniak and Hobart.

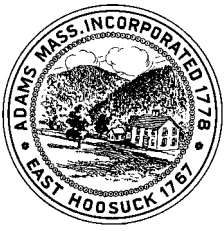
Motion passed

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Discussion took place regarding the Memorial School. Over the last 4 years it was estimated that \$30,000 to \$80,000 was put into the Memorial School for heat or repairs of the unoccupied building. With the overview of the proposed budget the Town cannot afford to run it another 4 or 5 years without seeing a return. The School is looking for money, and the Town is cutting staff, but is still heating an unoccupied building. A question was asked about the cost to “mothball” it or to get rid of it.

Town Administrator Mazzucco explained the cost depends on what is done with the building, and “mothballing” it still has approximately \$35,000 of costs associated. It is less expensive to keep the building open. Tearing down the building plus asbestos remediation is a minimum cost of \$1. The Town owns it and is putting money into it to create potential for alternate use.

It was suggested that the Town selling the Memorial School for \$1.00 and get it on the tax rolls.



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A potential developer is looking at the property tomorrow and the Town is actively pursuing interest in the building. If the right circumstance presents itself the Town will move quickly on it. The Town is also looking at assistance from BRPC to rent out part of the building. To date there has been a moderate to low level of interest in the building due to its complexity.

The East Street property is still owned by the Town, and Community Development will be putting out an RFP on this with hopes to get an offer.

Motion made by Member Allen to approve the FY2016 Public Buildings Budget

Second by Member Tomkowicz

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

PUBLIC WORKS

In previous budgets the summer Recreation Program for approximately \$7,000 was eliminated and the previous Town Administrator brought it back at \$14,000. It was questioned why this program and the amount for Russell Field was in the budget and not needed, while the Town is cutting retirement benefits and laying off staff.

The amount was for a master plan for Renfrew/Russell Field.

The summer Recreation Program watches the children and entertains them over the summer for the taxpayers. \$14,000 is for the youth in town.

Motion made by Member Corrigan to approve the FY2016 Budget for Public Works

Second by Member Johnson

In favor were Chairman Burdick and Members Kleiner, Demastrie, Smigel, Giroux, Allen, Johnson, Parrott, Tomkowicz, Pitoniak and Hobart.

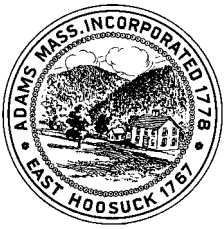
Opposed was Member Corrigan

Motion passed

ADAMS CHESHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Chairman Burdick reviewed the way the budget went this year. The School asked for one number from the Town, and the Select Board voted a different number, which was a 4% increase over last year's budget, but was what they recommended from general budget within tax levy to be approved. There will likely be an article in the Warrant to ask whether the additional amount the School District is asking for be approved through Proposition 2 ½. What the Finance Committee is voting on is what the Select Board recommended without a Proposition 2 ½ Override.

ACRSB Director of Business and Finance, David Hinkell explained that the total assessment is \$5,143.383 under the levy limit. The difference is approximately \$360,000.



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Discussion took place to explain what the process would be with the budget process depending on how the Finance Committee and the Town of Cheshire voted on the ACRSD Budget.

School Committee Vice-Chairwoman Darlene Rodowicz advised the Schools can put forward the same exact number a second time.

It was noted that the School District plans on adding 2 Administrators with salaries and benefits of approximately \$100,000 and an inquiry was made about how many administrators are ever laid off.

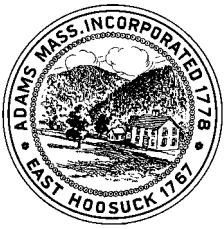
ACRSD Superintendent Kristen Gordon named the administrators and asked the Finance Committee which person they want to let go of. She explained the 2 positions to hire are pseudo-administrative, and on the teacher contract but they are not really administrative positions. The Technical Director is \$52,000, which she said is a low salary, so applications will be limited. The Curriculum Director is in response to review and recommendation by DESE, but the position may not end up being long term. There are only 6 or 7 administrative positions in the district. She explained the DESE recommendation was to eliminate 2 or 3 teachers in order to add the Curriculum Director.

Finance Committee Members commented that they were uncomfortable adding administrative positions when cutting teachers and aides. Questions were posed about whether the schools were not teaching the curriculum they should be, and if consideration was given to reduction of sports programs in favor of textbooks, and saving teacher and para-professional jobs. The Schools were asked to look at efficiencies in outsourcing functions to see what could be saved in benefits.

Superintendent Gordon informed the Finance Committee that she is trying to get people to stay in the district, and not approving this budget puts the schools in a vulnerable position by forcing them to lose 28 positions. She said that DESE warned if ACRSD didn't follow their recommendations the schools would be dropped to a Level 4 District. This would limit regionalization efforts with Lanesborough, Pittsfield, North Adams, and Williamstown, who will not combine with a Level 4. She said she would continue to be the Curriculum Director if she had not been told by DESE that the schools would be dropped to Level 4, but would not be able to be increased to Level 2. DESE Reports will be made public in 6 to 9 months. Superintendent Gordon has met with Town Administrator Mazzucco, Select Board Chairman Harrington, and Finance Committee Chairman Burdick to discuss the matter.

Currently used textbooks do not match the curriculum of the District, and teachers on the curriculum committee are trying to match the work. She explained that the texts are ancient and only got some money from a grant because C.T. Plunkett School is in dire straits and cannot afford to buy biology books. She said the teachers are there until 7:00 p.m. making their own curriculum. The teachers are not doing a bad job, but just don't have the materials they need.

Director Hinkell addressed student enrollment declines from 2012 to 2014 being on average 2.6% per year, which corresponds to the population decline in Berkshire County.



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He was not able to give an estimate of SAT Scores for the students, but the school encourages all kids to take SATs and tries to mandate them.

School Committee Vice Chairwoman Rodowicz said administrative positions are always the first to be cut, and it wouldn't be good for children and families if SPED Directors allow the kids to be sent out to homes instead. She noted that the Superintendent has one administrative secretary that does not do administrative work, but instead does the state reports and state mandates. She listed all of the administrative positions one by one and explained what they do, including combined services with accounting and benefits coordination and payroll. She emphasized that the Business Manager is also the Maintenance Supervisor. She said sports are not a huge line item in budget and the schools have not bought uniforms because the clubs provide equipment. They only pay coaches and buses but don't pay assistant coaches.

Extracurricular activity is going down in High Schools, and kids need to have art, band, and sports. 82% of kids are involved in something. Enrollment increases for students interested in basketball, football and band. There is a strong correlation to kids in top of class being well-rounded and involved in extracurricular activities and being strong in college.

Discussions have begun between the Town Administrator and Superintendent Gordon to think outside of the box, knowing it cannot continue this way and restructure needs to happen. 5 years ago an audit was done to streamline the schools, and they are open to partnering with others.

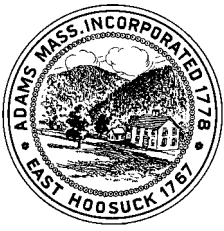
If \$350,000 was cut out of the Town Budget this year, it would impact 6 or 7 staff positions, but would not address the structural deficit. Next year both the Schools and the Town would need additional reductions to continue to close the structural gap of several hundred thousand dollars. The problem is bigger than just getting to the end of this year.

If the Finance Committee votes for the School Committee Budget and services in the Town are not where they have to be, it would be the Town going for the Override instead of the Schools.

Continued discussion ensued regarding whether the Schools or the Town should make the request for the Proposition 2 ½ Override and who would need to be the "bad guy". Ultimately, if both the Town and ACRSD were given what they asked for the Town Budget would be \$360,000 short.

School Committee Vice Chairwoman Rodowicz said this is a deficit that the community owns, not the school or the Town and though nobody wants taxes to go up, the Finance Committee has approved every line item for the Town and left no room and there is no more money. She expressed she was disheartened by how the pie is divvied up and how it is the School versus the Town, where anywhere else in the county people spend more on their kids than here.

The Town Budget was cut and both the Town staff and Select Board approved the reduced Budget. A 4% increase from last year's Budget was what the Board felt comfortable with. The Finance Committee is still going through budget.



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Superintendent Gordon said \$358,000 wouldn't give the Schools anything more than just what is available this year alone. The Schools had 4 retirees, so they will have fewer employees as well. School health benefit split changes were explained as the reason \$260,000 was saved last year.

The School Committee had previously explained they had a lack of computers for children to work with, and at C.T. Plunkett there is a computer room with 28 computers for 500 kids to have 35 to 40 minutes of computer time a week. Town Administrator Mazzucco is working to solve that problem.

Finance Committee Members noted there were more resources and industry in town years ago, and there is an obligation to both take care of students and to find the money needed for them. There was expressed desire not to have the Town versus the School.

Finance Committee Member Tomkowicz asked for a motion to have the Town Administrator go back to the Town Departments to come up with the \$365,000.

Finance Committee Chairman Burdick advised the Finance Committee is not voting on the School's Budget, but instead they are voting on the Selectmen's Approved Budget. He recommended getting up at Town Meeting and saying why if the Finance Committee doesn't approve.

Finance Committee Chairman advised that the Budget is \$8,800 from the levy capacity without a Proposition 2 ½ Override. Committee Members have the option to say yes and agree with the Select Board or support a Warrant for the Proposition 2 ½ Override to get the additional funding to bridge the gap. If not in agreement, Members can vote against it. This Budget issue may be sent to Town Meeting with the number of votes in support and against it so it is understood that it is not a unanimous decision.

Increase for Override

The Select Board approved Budget would increase taxes \$.75 to \$.78 but with the projected Proposition 2 ½ Override to fund the School Budget taxes would be increased \$1.48 to \$1.54, plus the Capital Override is another \$1.34. The current tax rate is \$21.37 and \$24.21 would be the new rate.

Motion made to accept Select Board Budget as presented by Member Corrigan

Second by Member Johnson

In Favor: 5 Members

Against: 6 Members

Motion failed

This vote allows the Select Board to re-open the Budget and it will go to Town Meeting with Finance Committee not recommending the Budget that the Select Board approved.



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MCCANN TECHNICAL SCHOOL

No additional discussion was needed regarding the McCann Budget.

Chairman Burdick called for a motion to vote on the McCann Budget

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

There was discussion regarding what the next steps were. The Finance Committee will next vote on the Warrant when it is prepared.

Member Johnson inquired if there were any Members with a Conflict of Interest regarding the School Budget.

Member Demastrie advised anyone with a child in the School District or family member working for the School District could arguably have a Conflict of Interest. One Member is a teacher that works in North Adams. He said a Conflict of Interest is different in every person's mind.

Jeff Lefebvre inquired how many Finance Members have disclosed their Conflicts of Interest, and advised he would check on it.

Chairman Burdick inquired if the new format and structure of the Budget Process was useful to the Finance Committee or not. Feedback was mixed, and will be fine-tuned going forward.

ADJOURNMENT

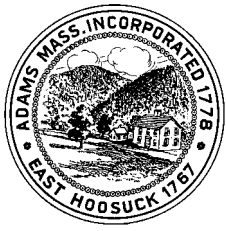
Motion made to adjourn the meeting by Member Johnson

Second by Member Allen

Unanimous vote

Motion adjourned

The Finance Committee Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.



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Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap,
Recording Secretary.

_____ Leon Parrott, Member	_____ Craig Corrigan, Member
_____ Paul Demastrie, Member	_____ Fred Hobart, Member
_____ David Allen, Member	_____ Charles Foster, Member
_____ Amy Giroux, Member	_____ Sandra Kleiner, Member
_____ Joan Smigel, Member	_____ Brian Johnson, Member
_____ Greg Tremblay, Member	_____ Matthew Pitoniak, Member
_____ Rachel Tomkowicz, Member	_____ John Lawson, Member
_____ Timothy Burdick, Chairman	