FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES 12/6/23

PRESENT: R. Kennedy, M. O’Connell, R. Boissonault, B. Young,

 S. Delnickas, T. Kulig, G. Farrell,

\*Meeting was called to order @ 6:04P.M.

\*Minutes from 10/11/23 approved

\*ARPA Fund discussion: Tom led the discussion detailing where
the Select Board is at, HVAC system @ the school needs repair or replacement with A/C added to the building. Plan is to hire an engineer to assess followed by bids. Library needs new A/C, Gloria has 3 bids which put the cost over 20k. Gloria said that being over that amount triggers State involvement in the process. Tom approached the Water Department regarding fire hydrants that need replacement, he has not received any response. The ARPA money needs to be spent or allocated by December 2024. The urgency for the Board to proceed on these projects was discussed with Tom & Gloria.

Motion was passed to support the Select Board in the dispersion of the ARPA funds.

\*Ruth presented an invoice from the Association of Town Finance Committees for $142, Motion was passed to have Nancy pay the invoice.

\*Nancy will be retiring in 20 months, Tom & Gloria said that the plan is to hire a full time Administrator along with a part time Accountant. No job description has been finalized, a discussion ensued about the urgency on this also. It was felt that ideally whoever was hired should be able to work with Nancy for 6 months or so.

\*Chief Hennessey spoke regarding the departments Ford Explorer which had gas & diesel mixed in the tank, this resulted in the engine needing replacement for a cost of $6,500. There is an ongoing investigation into how this happened, fortunately it was caught before any of their other vehicles were damaged. The Explorer has 39k miles on it, his feeling was that it was worth replacing the engine as opposed to totaling the vehicle. The budget for the Police department can’t handle the unexpected expense so the Chief requested that the Finance Committee consider using part of our emergency fund to pay for the new engine. After discussion a motion was passed to pay the $6,500 cost for a new engine for the Explorer.

\*The board discussed having a Saturday morning meeting in January with the thought that it would fit Nick’s schedule better, Steve will check with him.

\*Meeting was adjourned @ 7:15P.M.