

**TOWN OF UXBRIDGE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
JOINT MEETING WITH THE FINANCE COMMITTEE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING ROOM
21 SOUTH MAIN STREET, UXBRIDGE, MA
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2023 – 6:00 PM**

2023-10-03 14:00:00
2024-03-14 14:00:00

This meeting was held in-person & via Zoom.

As it pertains to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A Section 20(f), Board meetings are being recorded; anyone wishing to record a meeting should notify the Board Chair as soon as possible before recording.

Present: Chairman Jeffrey Shaw, Vice Chairman John Wise, Clerk Brian Plasko, and Member Stephen Mandile
Present via Zoom: Member Peter DeMers
Also Present: Town Manager Steve Sette, Town Accountant Kurt Ginthwain

1) CALL TO ORDER

After the Finance Committee opened their portion of the meeting with all members present in person, Chairman Shaw called the Board of Selectmen meeting to order at 6:02 PM by roll call: Mandile-YES, Plasko-YES, Wise-YES, Shaw-YES, DeMers-HERE. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2) PUBLIC HEARING – Fall Annual Town Meeting: Tuesday, October 24, 2023 – Warrant Articles

Finance Committee re-opened the Hearing as duly posted with unanimous support and discussion ensued on the Fall Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles listed below. Typically, the sponsor of the Article speaks first, with Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee questions to follow.

- a. Article 5: Unanticipated Preschool Expenses
- b. Article 6: Unanticipated Reductions in Federal Entitlement Grants
- c. Article 7: Unanticipated Expenses – General

Finance Member Maharay started with background on Article 5 with reference to the charts that were provided; extensive discussion occurred on Articles 5-7. Superintendent Michael Baldassarre and Director of Pupil Services Jennifer Toth were present in person to answer questions and help clarify information regarding Articles 5-7. Commentary from the Superintendent included concern on having enough space for Pre-K students, having students in the least restrictive learning environment with as little transitions as possible, and the importance of balance between budget cuts and maintaining high quality therapeutic programs.

Tina Ryan, 171 Eric Drive, was present in person to discuss the waitlist for peer models and the tuition rate for peer models to include concern for the high cost (currently a higher cost than attending Our Lady of the Valley,) and with question on how the tuition cost got configured.

Pat Tuer, 15 Kettle Hill Road, was present via Zoom with clarifying points on the revolving accounts and balance fluctuations over the year with reference to everyone having context on budget history.

Kara Guy, 100 Blackstone Street, was present in person with questions on incoming Pre-K students and whether there are students with current need for the therapeutic program; her suggestion was to fund the program in the Spring to serve children fully the following year, as partially doing so now would be a disservice to the children without the proper supports in place; she further clarified being a proponent of children staying in the district, if fully and ethically served, with the goal to do a better job at Child Find over the next year – the Federal Law under which public schools must look for, find, and evaluate kids who need special education. Mrs. Guy stated her background included Special Education Advocacy and being Chair of the Special Education Parent Advisory Council.

Town Manager Steve Sette and Town Accountant Kurt Ginthwain were also present in person to participate in the discussion and answer questions as necessary.

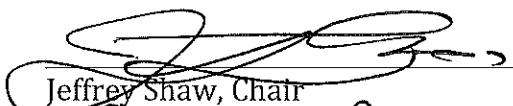
3) ADJOURNMENT

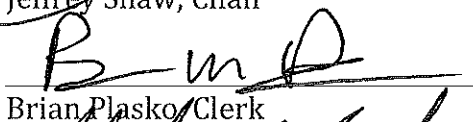
Chairman Shaw made a motion to recess from the joint meeting to the Board of Selectmen's meeting that followed in Lower Town Hall. The Finance Committee ended the Zoom portion of the meeting before the Board of Selectmen roll call occurred; as a result, member DeMers was unable to comment but the following motion was recorded.

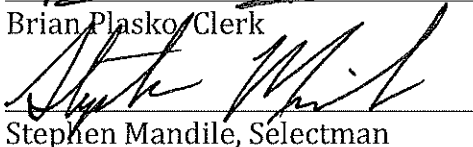
MOTION: to recess the October 3, 2023 joint meeting at 8:30 PM. The motion carried 4-0-0.
Mandile-YES, Plasko-YES, Shaw-YES, Wise-YES; DeMers-Zoom meeting ended before roll call occurred.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Alexandra Clauss

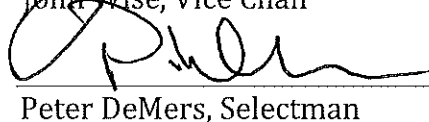
October 3, 2023 joint minutes approved by the Board of Selectmen:


Jeffrey Shaw, Chair


Brian Plasko, Clerk


Stephen Mandile, Selectman


John Wise, Vice Chair


Peter DeMers, Selectman

03-11-2024
Date

List of Documents and Other Exhibits Used:

10.2.23 FATM WARRANT REPORT (Draft 2023)

FY2023 End of Year Financial Documents for School Committee Transfers

Information Sheet_ Special Education Rights and Responsibilities

Uxbridge Public Schools PreK Funding Presentation

UPS_FY2024_Budget_Rev.011123 (2)

Revolving Account – Account Balances (for review)