March 22, 2023

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TOWN OF LUDLOW

Meeting of the Finance Committee held on Wednesday, March 22, 2023, beginning at 6:03 p.m. in the Selectmen's Conference Room, Town Hall.

Members present: Darlene Cincone-Chairman, Aneta Lombardi and Tony Sanches

Members excused: Susanne Boyea, Matais Goncalves and Michael Lafever

Mr. Marc Strange was also present.

First Order of Business: The Pledge of Allegiance

At this time the committee discussed changes to Level 2 2024 budget. Mr. Strange noted the following changes to Level 2 budget:

- Accounting department – added contract with Clifford Larson Allen (CLA), backed out salaries for Town Accountant and retiring Assistant Town Accountant, also transferred a position from the Treasurer's office.
- Assesor's office – there will be more changes for salaries that are not yet final.
- Treasurer's office – position moved to the accounting department.
- Collector's office -budget increased due to a promotion to fill a position from a retiring employee.
- Veteran's service – added $10,000 for lease addendum (this amount might change) and $14,500 for vets' benefits.
- Information Technology – plan is to outsource all services.
- Tax recap analysis – changes to governor's local aid proposal.

With all these changes, the current Level 2 budget is $574,181 under levy capacity, but it includes a 3% increase for the school budget. The next joint meeting of the School Committee, Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, March 28, 2023.

Possible changes to Level 2 budget include:

- Treasurer/Collector position (question on the ballot for March) – if it passes, both positions will be combined into one and will need salary and benefits budget adjustment.
- Assesor's office – RFP is out for reduced consulting services.
- Negotiations are still taking place with unions on salaries.
- Possible additional funds from supplementary budget filed by the governor for local aid bill (for outplacement).

Moved by Mr. Sanches, seconded by Ms. Cincone to approve and sign the Finance Committee Minutes of February 15, 2023, as indicated.
Vote: 3-0 in favor.

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Moved by Mr. Sanches, seconded by Ms. Lombardi to adjourn the Finance Committee Meeting at 6:25 p.m. Vote: 3-0 in favor.

Arlene Lombardi

Robert Cincone

Ludlow Finance Committee