

Justin Paré, President
John Simmons, Vice President
John Costello
Daniel Donovan
Mark Gould, Jr.



Darius Gregory
Andrew Shanahan
Andrea Slobogan
Patricia St. Pierre

Town of North Attleborough
TOWN COUNCIL
43 South Washington Street, North Attleborough, MA 02760
Phone: (508) 699-0100

4/10/2024 - Minutes

I. Pledge Of Allegiance

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Donovan called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. and lead the Committee and the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

Members Present:

Craig Cameron

John Costello

Dan Donovan

Pat St. Pierre

Kathleen Prescott

Chris Shamp

Members Absent:

John Simmons

Staff Present:

Town Manager Michael Borg

Assistant Town Manager Antonio Morabito

Clerk of the Council Kerrin Billinghoff

Treasurer/Tax Collector Chris Sweet

Fire Chief Chris Coleman

Public Facilities Director Tim Chouinard

Schools Public Facilities Director Ernie Sandland

Assistant Accountant Tammy Baillargeon

Human Resources Director Cathy Calicchia

Assistant Assessor Cheryl Smith

Residents:

None at this time

Invited Guests Present:

Michelle Newcomb of Bartholomew Investment Group

Chuck Patterson of Bartholomew Investment Group

Documents Reviewed:

- Finance Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes of April 1, 2024
- Measure 2024-086- To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of G.L. c.44, §54(b),(c),&(d) to allow Town trust funds to be invested in accordance with G.L. c.203C, the so-called "Prudent Investment Rule", or take any other action relative thereto
- Measure 2024-87- North Attleborough Fire Department Supplemental Overtime Request
- FY25 Estimated Revenues Chart
- OPEB Chart
- Tri-County Letter
- MUNIS Backup Sheets for Budget Items presented

II. Approval Of Minutes

Approval of Finance Sub-Committee Minutes of April 1, 2024

Councilor Costello made a motion to approve the Finance Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes of April 1, 2024.

Councilor Prescott seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0-1.

III. Resident And Community Comment

None at this time.

IV. Old Business

- a. None at this time.

V. New Business

- a. FY25 Budget Items

- Revenue Discussion
- Unemployment (913)
- Health Insurance (914)
- Life Insurance (915)
- Reserve Funds (132)
- Auditing Services
- Interest on Abatement (147)
- Town Attorney (151)
- Tax Title Foreclosures (158)
- Weight's & Measures (246)
- Bristol County Agricultural School
- Tri-County (391)
- Snow & Ice (423)
- Streetlights (424)
- Historical Commission (691)
- Interest on Short Term Debt (752)
- County Assessment (830)
- Retirement & Pension (911)
- Medicare (916)
- Liability Insurance (945)
- Insurance Reserve (946)
- Salary Reserve (949)
- Overlay for Abatements
- Quinquennial Evaluations
- Tax Exemptions
- OPEB
- Verizon (197)
- Comcast (199)

Town Manager Borg reviewed each of the FY25 Budget Items listed above as well as the MUNIS sheet for each one. There was discussion amongst the Town Manager and the Committee.

Human Resources Director Cathy Calicchia was in attendance to answer any questions that the Committee may have had on Unemployment, Health Insurance, and Life Insurance. There was discussion amongst the Committee and Ms. Calicchia.

Assistant Assessor Cheryl Smith was in attendance to answer questions that the Committee may have had on the Overlay for Abatements and the Quinquennial Evaluations.

- b. Measure 2024-086- To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of G.L. c.44, §54(b),(c),&(d) to allow Town trust funds to be invested in accordance with G.L. c.203C, the so-called "Prudent Investment Rule", or take any other action relative thereto

Measure 2024-086- To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of G.L. c.44, §54(b),(c),&(d) to allow Town trust funds to be invested in accordance with G.L. c.203C, the so-called "Prudent Investment Rule", or take any other action relative thereto.

This measure aims to broaden the investment capabilities of the Treasurer by allowing for the investment of Town Trust Funds into a more diverse array of options beyond those currently permitted by the Massachusetts Legal List. This will be achieved by adopting and adhering to the investment guidelines outlined in Massachusetts General Law Chapter 203C, thus providing a solid foundation and expanded opportunities for the responsible growth and management of the town's financial resources.

Mr. Michelle Newcomb and Mr. Chuck Patterson of Bartholomew Investment Group were in attendance to explain this Measure and answer any questions that the Committee may have had. They explained that this has been a long time coming for Municipalities. There was discussion amongst the Committee and both Mr. Patterson and Ms. Newcomb.

Discussions included:

- What is this vote actually for?
- Is this vote to just adopt this procedure only?
- Once this is adopted by the Town Council, now we will have the "Prudent Investment Rule"
- Does this expose the Town to greater risk?
- Because of the broader diversification there is less risk to the Town.
- The Town currently has 47 Trust Funds.
- The Opportunity Fund is Not included in the "Prudent Rule"

Councilor Costello made a motion to refer Measure 2024-086- To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of G.L. c.44, §54(b),(c),&(d) to allow Town trust funds to be invested in accordance with G.L. c.203C, the so-called "Prudent Investment Rule", or take any other action relative thereto, back to the Full Town Council with a favorable recommendation.

Ms. Prescott seconded the motion.

Motion carried 6-0.

- c. Measure 2024-087- North Attleborough Fire Department Supplemental Overtime Request

Measure 2024-87- North Attleborough Fire Department Supplemental Overtime Request

The North Attleboro Fire Department is requesting additional funding for shift staffing overtime. During Fiscal Year 2024 the department has experienced several unforeseen long-term illnesses, military leave, Line of Duty injuries and vacancies created by retirements and resignations.

Please see the attached detailed report outlining the unforeseen circumstances.

Funding Request Fire Budget: \$125,000.00

Funding Request Ambulance Budget: \$125,000.00

Source for Fire Budget Request: Salary Reserve Account. Balance in Account is \$336,484.84. Account #019498 518000

Source for Ambulance Budget Request: Ambulance Receipt Reserve Account. Balance in Account is \$2,151,865. Account #2940039 596100.

Chief Coleman was in attendance to explain this measure to the Committee and answer any of the questions that they may have had.

Items Discussed:

- Challenging Year for the Fire Department
- Chief Coleman tries to predict every circumstance of what may happen in the Department.
- Many illnesses this year. Unforeseen circumstances.
- This year was an anomaly. Impossible to predict.
- Military leave of some Firefighters.
- Town pays the difference of what they were making as a firefighter when they are on Military leave.
- Sick overtime is paid at an average rate of \$50.00 an hour.

Councilor Costello made a motion to refer Measure 2024-87- North Attleborough Fire Department Supplemental Overtime Request back to the Full Town Council with a favorable recommendation.

Councilor St. Pierre seconded the motion.

Motion carried 6 - 0.

VI. Adjournment

Councilor Costello made a motion to adjourn.

Councilor St. Pierre seconded the motion.

Motion carried 6 - 0.

Adjourned at 9:08 PM.