

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

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3/6/2024 - Minutes

**I. Pledge Of Allegiance**

Vice-President Simmons called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and lead the Committee and the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

**Members Present:**

John Simmons  
Dan Donovan  
John Costello  
Pat St. Pierre  
Kathleen Prescott  
Craig Cameron

**Members Absent:**

Chris Shamp

**Staff Present:**

Town Manager Michael Borg  
Assistant Town Manager Antonio Morabito  
Clerk of the Council Kerrin Billinghoff  
Town Accountant Linda Catanzariti  
Treasurer/Collector Chris Sweet  
NAPD Chief McQuade

NAFD Chief Coleman

Public Facilities Director Tim Chouinard

Superintendent Dr. John Antonucci

Library Director Deb Clifton

**Invited Guests Present:**

Tasha Buzzell Chair of the School Committee

**Documents Reviewed:**

- Finance Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes of 2/21/2024.
- Measure 2024-067-Approval to reallocate remaining funds from previously bonded/borrowed Capital Projects to be used for the Richards Memorial Library Refurbishment
- Measure 2024-068- Approval to establish a Special Education Stabilization Fund
- Measure 2024-069- Approval to transfer \$60,000.00 FY24 Free Cash to the Special Education Stabilization Fund-**AMENDED**
- Measure 2024-062 Safety & Security Project

**II. Approval Of Minutes**

- a. Approval of Finance Sub-Committee Minutes of February 21, 2024

Approval of Finance Sub-Committee Minutes of February 21, 2024

Councilor Donovan made a motion to approve the Finance Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes of February 21, 2024.

Councilor Costello seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 6-0.**

**III. Resident And Community Comment**

None at this time.

**IV. Old Business**

None at this time.

**V. New Business**

- a. Measure 2024-067-Approval to reallocate remaining funds from previously bonded/borrowed Capital Projects to be used for the Richards Memorial Library Refurbishment

Measure 2024-067-Approval to reallocate remaining funds from previously bonded/borrowed Capital Projects to be used for the Richards Memorial Library Refurbishment

Approval to reallocate remaining funds from previously bonded Capital Projects to be used for the Richards Memorial Library Refurbishment from the following accounts:

<b>Funding Sources: Account:</b>	<b>Amount:</b>	
Town Phone System Upgrade-M2021-053 31155153/585012	\$38,465.93	
Rehab Falls Dam-A6/16ATM 31171267/584003	\$78,332.69	
Repair Lighting Town Hall-A6C/20ATM	\$110,000.00	31192287/581502
Repair Ceiling Tile Town Hall- A6C/20ATM	\$150,000.00	31192287/582030
Engine 4 Replacement-M2021-053 31220153/585104	\$10,849.79	
Engine 6 Replacement-A8/14JTM 31220261/585104	\$411.52	
Fire ST2 Heating System-A6/15ATM 31220263/584007	\$478.11	
Highway Salt Shed-A6C/18ATM 31422278/582025	\$117.96	
Chestnut St. Bridge-A6C/18ATM 31422278/586208	\$471,013.81	
<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$859,669.81</b>

As well as approval to transfer FY24 Free Cash in the amount of \$12,180.19.

Therefore, I respectfully request that the Town Council approve the reallocation of remaining funds from previously bonded/borrowed Capital Projects in the amount of \$859,669.81 and to transfer from FY24 Free Cash in the amount of \$12,180.19. The total amount of \$871,850.00 to be used for the Richards Memorial Library Refurbishment.

Town Manager Borg explained this measure to the Committee and reported that the Town Accountant had looked for remaining funds from completed Capital Projects, and old leftover money. Town Manager Borg requested that the Committee vote in favor of using these remaining funds for the Library Project.

Assistant Town Manager Antonio Morabito explained that this Library Project began as just a replacement of library windows in the amount of \$114,520.00. As they got into the project, it was determined that the entire envelope of the building was in need of repair including brick work, ceiling work, window replacement, and a new handicapped walkway. These improvements are for the integrity and safety of the building and necessary for the library's existence. The library will need close to \$4.9mm in total for repairs.

There was discussion amongst the committee.

Library Director Deb Clifton was in attendance to answer any of the questions that the Committee may have had. She reported that there are an average of 150 patrons a day that visit the library. Residents come to read, check out books, use the internet, use the computers, and participate in Senior Programs and Early Literacy Story Programs. Ms. Clifton stated that once the refurbishment of the library is complete, they will add to the current programs.

Councilor Donovan made a motion to refer back to the Full Town Council with a positive recommendation Measure 2024-067-Approval to reallocate remaining funds from previously bonded/borrowed Capital Projects to be used for the Richards Memorial Library Refurbishment in the amount of \$859,669.81 and to transfer from FY24 Free Cash in the amount of \$12,180.19. The total amount of \$871,850.00 to be used for the Richards Memorial Library Refurbishment.

Councilor Costello seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 6-0.**

b. Measure 2024-068- Approval to establish a Special Education Stabilization Fund

I respectfully request the Town Council vote to establish a Special Education Stabilization Fund pursuant to MGL Chapter 40, Section 13E; the funding of which and any appropriation(s) from shall be authorized by vote of the legislative body of the Town (the Town Council)

Town Manager Borg reviewed this Measure with the Committee.

Both Superintendent Dr. John Antonucci and the Chair of the School Committee Tasha Buzzell were in attendance to address the Committee and answer any questions that the Committee may have had.

Discussions between the Committee, the Town Manager, the Superintendent, the Chair of the School Committee, and the Town Accountant included:

- Rules for Stabilization Funds will be followed.
- A vote will be needed to put the money in and take the money out.
- The Town Council's Support is needed.
- Special Education is extremely important.
- Impossible to budget each year of how many children who require Special Education will move into our Town.
- Let's start this account and then grow on this account.

- By establishing this fund, are we setting the Schools up for failure, as they do not usually turn back money?
- At the end of the FY, if the School Department turns back any funds, an amount will be determined, and voted on, from the turnback, that can be deposited into this Special Education Stabilization Fund.
- This potential turnback will now hold the Schools accountable and responsible for building up this fund. Accountable for their budget.
- This fund cannot be more that 2% of their budget at any time.
- These funds would be for the unforeseen need.
- Not in favor of small pockets of money.
- Once the Budget is completed and approved, the Schools cannot request Free Cash for Special Education. The budget would need to be called back. This Stabilization Fund would be a way to support Special Education that was not foreseen.
- At the end of the FY, any money left over in the School’s Budget would fall to Free Cash. Once this fund is established, at the end of each FY, an amount would be determined that would be put in the Stabilization Account, and once Free Cash is certified in October/November of the following year, this amount would then be put into this Stabilization Account.
- The Town will support the schools.
- Identity of students in need, will and always has been kept confidential.
- Discussed 504’s and IEP’s Special Education Plans.
- “When” The money from this fund would be used, not “IF” it would be used.
- Would act as a relief valve.
- Consideration of putting a policy in place so that the funds don’t accumulate and end up being over \$800,000.00

Councilor Donovan made a motion to refer back to the Full Town Council with a positive recommendation Measure 2024-068-Approval to establish a Special Education Stabilization Fund.

Councilor Costello seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 6-0.**

- c. Measure 2024-069- Approval to transfer \$60,000.00 FY24 Free Cash to the Special Education Stabilization Fund-AMENDED

I respectfully request the Town Council vote to establish a Special Education Stabilization Fund pursuant to MGL Chapter 40, Section 13E; the funding of which and any appropriation(s) from shall be authorized by vote of the legislative body of the Town (the Town Council)

Town Manager Borg explained this was the amount to fund the Special Education Stabilization Fund. \$60,000.00 was the amount decided upon because this was the amount that the School Department turned back last year at the end of FY23.

Councilor Donovan made a motion to refer Measure 2024-049- Approval to transfer \$60,000.00 FY24 Free Cash to the Special Education Stabilization Fund-AMENDED, back to the Full Town Council with a positive recommendation.

Councilor St. Pierre seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 6-0.**

## **VI. Executive Session**

- a. M.G.L. c.30A, Sec. 21(a), Sec.6 - To discuss the deployment of or strategy regarding security personnel or devices, e.g. a sting operation.

Vice-President Simmons made a motion to enter into executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, Sec. 21(a), Sec.6 - To discuss the deployment of or strategy regarding security personnel or devices, e.g. a sting operation.

### **Measure 2024-062 Safety & Security Project**

Councilor Donovan seconded the motion.

A Roll Call Vote was Taken to enter into Executive Session:

John Simmons -YES

John Costello - YES

Pat St. Pierre-YES

Kathleen Prescott- YES

Craig Cameron- YES

**Motion carried 6-0.**

- i. Measure 2024-062 Safety & Security Project

## **VII. Adjournment**

Councilor Donovan made a motion to adjourn.

Councilor St. Pierre seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 6-0.**

**Regular Meeting adjourned at 7:54 PM**