

TOWN OF NEW SALEM

BOARD OR COMMITTEE: Finance Committee

DATE: Friday Feb 3, 2023 **TIME:** 9:00 am

LOCATION: Videoconferenced on Zoom, link below

Attending: Gabe, Chuck, Claire, Rick Martin of Franklin County Tech School

Absent: none

Called to order 9:00

Discussion:

1. Review concepts in FY24 budget prep and schedule of hearings with Departments.
2. 9:15 presentation from Rick Martin of FCTS – awaiting governor’s budget so everything is preliminary. Major capital project for the building in 4-5 years, will be borrowing. 2-2.5% change in assessment expected. New Salem is down two students, from 13 to 11, one graduating, but 4 applications. Down in FY24 with likely rebound in FY25. FCTS and Frontier are two highest population schools in county. FCTS accepting lower percentage of total applicants to control class size than historically. Using grant funding to start up programs. Added med tech and vet tech programs, now looking to add aviation tech. School committee anticipates budget approval in March 15 for distribution on the 16th.
3. Discuss strategy for free cash, stabilizations, budget vs. special article, reserve policy. COLA for our staff is a priority, and another maybe debt reduction. Our free cash position is high and it is time to match spending to single (non-recurring) needs. Target of 20-25% of operating budget as a reserve level, sum of free cash and stabilizations.
4. Mahar has made a request for Cap Stabilization, discussion scheduled for Feb 27 at 2 pm. Orange has declined to act, Wendell has approved, Petersham unknown. We should request the 10 year capital plan. What will the spending rule and approval method be? How are contributions to the fund created? We need to research that prior to 2/27 meeting with Dr. Liz.
5. Process discussion or meeting with SelectBoard to have agreement on budget before warrant prep – timeframe should be late April or early May.
6. Reminder of next meeting time 2/24/23 at 10:00 and Adjourn at 10:04 am

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86829688892?pwd=K0RyNDUzak9NeGZUcGYra1hPbUVCdz09>

Meeting ID: 868 2968 8892

Passcode: 597298

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