

**Acton Water District
Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2026, 3:00 PM
693 Massachusetts Avenue
Acton, MA 01720**

In attendance were Finance Committee members Bill Guthlein and John Petersen.

Also in attendance:

District Manager: Matthew Mostoller

Deputy District Manager: Corey Godfrey

District Treasurer: Ashley Pinard

Public Present: Barry Rosen, Kim Kastens

Mr. Guthlein called the Finance Committee meeting to order at 3:01pm.

New Business:

1. AWD FinCom future objectives
2. Any Other New Business

Old Business:

1. Review FY27 budget, Warrant Articles and Discuss Recommendations
2. Possible amendment to FY27 budget to be offered at annual meeting
3. Status of Free Cash Certification
4. Review of Draft Presentation for the Annual District Meeting
5. AWD Fincom meeting schedule, membership update

Comments from the Public

No Comments

New Business

AWD FinCom future objectives

Mr. Guthlein opened the discussion of any new objectives to be undertaken by the finance committee. He mentioned researching and reporting on issues of financial stability of the district such as rates and financial risks. Mr. Petersen suggested that due to time constraints they move on to the pressing old business items, Review of warrant articles and possible non-binding amendment to FY27 budget.

Old Business

Review of Draft Presentation for the Annual District Meeting

Mr. Petersen questioned who would be doing the presentation at the annual district meeting. Mr. Mostoller stated per the last board meeting that Mr. Petersen would be doing the presentation and that he and Mr. Godfrey were updating the slides.

Review FY27 budget, Warrant Articles and Discuss Recommendations and Possible amendment to FY27 budget to be offered at annual meeting

Lengthy discussion took place regarding the finance committee's role in the annual district meeting and the possible non-binding amendment being presented by Mr. Petersen. Mr. Mostoller advised that when Mr.

Petersen is speaking for the finance committee he will be at the front of the room but will need to move to the audience when speaking as an individual. He continued to explain that the amendment would not come up until article 4 and would require a second. Discussion would only be allowed if the moderator agreed to move forward. Mr. Petersen discussed the options that he had received from legal counsel and provided a handout. Mr. Guthlein stated he would support the non-binding amendment that Mr. Petersen proposed and he still supports article 4 as it stands.

Mr. Petersen moved that the non-binding amendment should be offered at annual meeting, Mr. Guthlein seconded, all in favor.

Mr. Petersen went on to say that if the non-binding amendment passes the finance committee expects the board to act on it. Mr. Guthlein and Mr. Mostoller agreed that this is not an allowable motion.

Mr. Rosen asked to clarify if the motion was on behalf of Mr. Petersen or the finance committee, Mr. Guthlein stated it is the finance committee.

Mr. Petersen moved that if the non-binding amendment is allowed to be voted on, the finance committee will support the budget/article 4 regardless of the outcome. Mr. Guthlein seconded, all in favor.

Ms. Kastens made a comment that she sees the benefit in having an outside agency review the rate structure to get outside resources and input. She noted the level of engagement in the ABForward process to bring outside opinions. Discussion commenced between Mr. Mostoller, Mr. Petersen, and Mr. Guthlein about this and the possible non-binding amendment.

Mr. Petersen questioned the status of the PFAS settlement funds. Mr. Mostoller stated the PFAS working group made a recommendation which was voted on and approved 2-1 by the finance committee. That recommendation was then unanimously adopted by the Board. He went on to say at the last finance committee meeting, the members agreed to support the PFAS related articles, including the dollar values being proposed for use.

Mr. Petersen and Mr. Guthlein considered a motion to support the expenses of the proposed FY27 budget but then concluded that the finance committee has not come to an agreement and they still have no recommendation on article 4.

Status of Free Cash Certification

Mr. Mostoller updated the finance committee that free cash has not been submitted and no additional changes in status were reported.

AWD Fincom meeting schedule, membership update

Mr. Mostoller gave the update that there has been no interest expressed for a third member of the finance committee to him or the moderator.

Mr. Petersen and Mr. Guthlein proposed having their next meeting in April, as Mr. Petersen will be travelling in May.

Mr. Petersen motioned to adjourn the meeting at 4:01 PM. Mr. Guthlein seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote: Mr. Petersen, Mr. Guthlein.