

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

### **Minutes**

**January 24, 2008**

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Thursday, January 24, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the Finance Committee Room, T. Jalkut, S. Connell, M. Kent, L. Donovan, R. Knobel, S. Kelliher, J. Muti, C. Lane and M. Boragine, M. Barry, T. Bowen and M. Gallivan. Also in attendance was Town Administrator M. Boynton.

7:30 p.m. – Quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by Chairman T. Jalkut.

#### **Town Administrator – Update**

Mr. Boynton provided an update on the FY09 Budget to the Committee. Gov. Patrick's proposed budget includes an additional \$500,000 in Chapter 70 monies, but there is an anticipated reduction in monies for Lottery of \$303,000, allowing for a positive gain of only \$200,000. There will be more information forthcoming in the Spring on school choices and charter schools. He hopes these numbers will increase, legislature will adjust the numbers accordingly when state numbers are available. Economy is not doing well, anticipate a reduction in numbers for interest. There is no projected changes in local aid. School Superintendent is looking for a 6.1% increase, budget can only increase 2.5%. Preliminary numbers show 1.1 million deficit of what the Town can afford. He is unsure how they will close the gap as there had been conversation that there was money for new hires and increases in the budget.

**Health Benefits** – Town Administrator attended meeting with West Suburban. Numbers look good and are less than projected for Harvard Pilgrim and Tufts. Projected numbers for Blue Cross are up and he hasn't included Fallon. He is very comfortable with 12% increase, and there might be a drop. February 28, the rates will be set. Norfolk County Retirement will be meeting next week and decide on whether to offer a discount, this is a potential \$50,000 in savings.

#### **Planning Board/Rewrite**

Present for this discussion were Planning Board Chairman J. Conroy, Members E. Nashawaty, E. Forsberg, Town Planner D. Johnson, and N. Cracknell, Horsley & Whitten.

Chairman J. Conroy spoke to the Planning Board finishing up on the Zoning by-laws rewrite, it is still in draft form for this meeting. They have had many delays due to wording changes. These changes have been very long and tedious and the Planning Board has decided the best way to handle would be through a Special Town Meeting.

They have had four public meetings to date and have been very well attended. Definitions have to be definitely updated. Many questions were asked from residents and members of other town boards and departments. Their consultant (Horsley Whitten) on this rewrite has been paid through the Kendall Fund. They need to have this document approved and then go from there and look at the use table and zoning map. This has to be done gradually. They want to bring the Zoning By-laws to be in a more readable format for 2008. Original document was done in 1956. They would like to have the public hearing held prior to the warrant being signed thus allowing for changes to be made and reviewed by Town Counsel prior to approval. Town Meeting everything would be correct and in legal format.

As the Zoning book and map are presently, it could never be meshed. They have made every effort to get to the people and are amicable to do anything that seems wrong. They want the document to be more readable and bring it to the 21<sup>st</sup> century and user friendly with no dead ends. Changes were made to make anything illegal to be more legal. This was done on advice of counsel.

B. Nashawaty – This document will fix the existing by-laws and be more readable and accessible to the public. All the sections will match and all the grammar congruent. This was the goal of the rewrite. They are not changing the content of the By-laws, just more grammatically correct. Master Plan Implementation Committee had recommended that this task be done.

D. Johnson, not changing zoning map, just the text. Nothing new to the document, Sections amended, more logical order allowing for more logical places for future amendments to be put. He requested that anyone with questions to contact him.

T. Jalkut, spoke to the problem of people accepting the project in total, they will have to trust that there aren't really any changes.

Town Meeting will have to go section by section and take questions and answer them on each section. No one has discussed with the Moderator J. Rockwood, how this will be handled at Town Meeting, Town Meeting should have a say on how they want it handled and whether or not it will be one or two nights. Difficulty in doing substitute motions. J. Conroy spoke to any changes being made, come back at a later date.

R. Knobel spoke to an index with the document allowing it to be easier to find things.

N. Cracknell, Horsley & Whitten spoke to the goals were to reformat and reorganize the By-law and not do any radical changes.

Planning Board wants to deal with the Use Table in the Fall, and reorganize it and set up a committee to review. Town needs to get more proactive identifying new businesses. D. Johnson spoke to anyone having any questions that they be directed to him.

Town Administrator spoke to make some changes to the Use Table and create a dialogue and go forward. The provision of any unlawful uses is wide open and catches things we don't want. Time needs to be spent identifying proper uses and go forward.

It is not know whether the Special will include one or two articles. They are going forward with Article 1 and then Article 2 with suggested language changes as requested. This will give people the opportunity to speak to the changes. There might be some objections on some of the language on Article 2. Planning Board Public Hearing on the articles is scheduled for February 14, 2008.

Planning Board Public Hearing is scheduled for February 14, 2008

Town Administrator spoke to their being ongoing discussions on whether or not a third article should be added if Articles 1 and 2 fail. This is due to concerns raised by the Selectmen on the Table of Uses. There are many unanswered questions on the Use Table. People feel that as long as some of the language is in there, that terrible uses will be coming up every year. Planning Board doesn't want to deal with this at this time as they feel it will impede the Re-write.

### **Minutes**

**MOTION MADE** by R. Knobel, Seconded by C. Lane to approve the Minutes of January 17, 2008, Motion Approved (9-0-3) (M. Gallivan, S. Kelliher, J. Muti abstained) (12 voting)

Next schedule meeting of the Finance Committee will be held on January 31, 2008 at which time the Committee will have further discussion on the draft Zoning-Rewrite. .

10:20 p.m. Motion to adjourn by Ralph Knobel, Seconded by M. Boragine. Motion Approved, Unanimous (12-0-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Clare P. Abril  
Secretary