

FINANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

March 25, 2019

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Monday, March 25, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in Room #112, Town Hall, with the following members present: M. Trudell, J. Burke, B. Bain, M. Sullivan, D. Shea, K. Greulich, L. Van der Linden, M. Ahigian, A. Flowers, S. Lawson, A. Hamilton and D. Crowley. Members absent were R. Ardine and R. Nottbart. Also in attendance was Town Administrator J. Johnson and Fire Chief T. Bailey.

7:00 p.m. – Quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by the Chairman M. Trudell.

May 6, 2019 Spring Annual Town Meeting

Town Administrator J. Johnson updated the Committee on his recommendations for FY20 Budget adjustment totaling \$551,711. This is due to the finalized insurance figures being received. He is recommending that these monies be allocated in the amount of \$110,000 towards OPEB, \$41,000 for Tri-County Regional HS, \$231,243 Walpole Public Schools and \$169,468 for various Town Departments. He will present the final recommendation at the March 28, 2019 Finance Committee Meeting in preparation for the Committee to vote the final budget.

Article 22 – Climate Change Resolution

Speaking to this article was the petitioner P. Czachorowski. Article requests that the Town pass a resolution to adopt a goal of getting the Town municipal energy usage to 100% clean, renewable energy by the year 2050 and that the Town officials and staff consider all municipal decisions in light of whether they will bring the Town and its residents, businesses and institutions closer to the 100% renewable energy and the Town urge the Legislature and statewide elected and appointed officials to do everything to bring Massachusetts closer to 100% renewable energy.

Selectmen and Town Meeting adopted a resolution in 2016 recording their opposition to investing in new natural gas pipeline capacity.

Mr. Czachorowski spoke to the Town not being able to afford to ignore climate change. Climate is affecting Walpole now. Town needs to do their part in helping the State meet the Global Solutions Warming Act. Purpose of the article is to start a conversation, make people aware of climate changes and being pro-active in applying for Grants. Towns that have a plan in place will be the recipient of Grants first. Next step is to apply to the

Green Communities Program, establish an Energy/Climate Coordinator Advisory Group and create a Climate Action Plan/Master Plan similar to the Town of Brookline.

It is best to address the issue of climate control earlier than later. Lowering energy usage through conservation renewal energy is cheaper than other options. Communities need to work with legislatures. Passing the resolution is the first step. He is asking the Committee for a non-binding vote. Students at the high school support this plan. It is very important for future generations. To pass this, sends a strong statement of what the Town wants. Government should be more pro-active. There needs to be long term thinking and Selectmen should take direction from Town Meeting.

Cost should be less as the Town would be using less energy. There is no financial impact to the residents, article doesn't mandate anything, it is up to the Town and residents to determine what they want to do to get to 100%. There are social and environmental costs.

To mandate a more greener approach with new buildings would require a By-law change. Citizens group had tried to do this last year, but it failed; there will be an article in the future for a By-law change.

Other communities are doing this, this is the next step to build a more energy efficient community.

Committee members brought up that the Town could never go to completely green energy (police and senior center don't have basements) and there are certain restrictions required by the Federal Government. Library was built to be Green energy efficient but requirements have changed. Previous administration wanted green vehicles, but the cost is prohibited.

MOTION MADE by D. Crowley, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action on Article 22, Resolution on climate change, Motion Passed (10-0-2) (D. Shea, J. Burke abstained) (12 voting)

Tri-County Regional Vo-Tec School

Present was Superintendent-Director S. Dockray and School Business Manager J. Roy and Walpole's School Committee Member L. Hoegler. (Walpole is also represented by School Committee Member J. Young)

They have adopted an operating budget of \$19,302,042 and a Capital Budget of \$300,000. Walpole's assessment is \$860,997. Local contribution is 59% of Foundation Budget. Foundation Budget is also based on enrollment. Mr. Dockray recapped the budget.

School Committee Member T. Hoegler thanked the Committee for the opportunity to meet with them, they haven't been before the Finance Committee in 10 to 12 years.

Special Education Circuit Breaker Reimbursement/Chapter 70 Funding Letter

Draft letter presented to the Committee for their review and signature from School Committee Member N. Gallivan requesting members of the Finance Committee to sign, if they wish. School Committee and Board of Selectmen will also sign the letter. Letter was not on tonight's agenda, so the Committee could not do anything. This will be on the March 28, 2019 agenda.

Minutes

MOTION MADE by A. Flowers, Seconded by S. Lawson to approve the February 11, 2019 minutes, Motion Passed (10-0-2) (M. Ahigian D. Crowley abstained) (12 voting)

MOTION MADE by A. Flowers, Seconded by D. Shea to approve the February 25, 2019 minutes, Motion Passed (12-0-0) (12 voting) Unanimous

MOTION MADE by A. Flowers, Seconded by S. Lawson to approve the February 28, 2019 Minutes Motion Approved (11-0-1) (D. Crowley abstained) (12 voting)

MOTION MADE by S. Lawson, Seconded by M. Trudell, to approve the March 11, 2019 Minutes, Motion Approved (12-0-0) (12 voting) Unanimous

Adjourn:

MOTION MADE by K. Greulich, Seconded by D. Crowley to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m., Motion Passed (12-0-0) (Unanimous)

Respectfully submitted,

Clare P. Abril
Clerk