Approved 10-7-19

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes

September 16, 2019

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Monday, September 16, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room, Town Hall with the following members present: M. Trudell, J Burke, A. Flowers, S. Ahern, M. Ahigian, B. Bain, D. Crowley, J. Fisher, K. Greulich, A. Hamilton, S. Lawson, L. Romanowiz, D. Shea, M. Sullivan and L. Van der Linden Also in attendance was Town Administrator J. Johnson, Assistant Superintendent P. Shield, Finance Director M. Thompson, Town Accountant J. Cuneo.and Fire Chief T. Bailey and Department heads seeking approval for their Capital Budget articles.

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

October 21, 2019 Fall Annual Town Meeting

Article 16 – Hancock Court/ Street Acceptance

Street has been reviewed by the Engineering Department, and everything required is in order. Selectmen will vote to accept this street at their meeting of September 17, 2019.

MOTION MADE by D. Crowley, Seconded by B. Bain to for Favorable Action on the acceptance of Hancock Court, Motion Passed, (15-0-0) (15 voting) (Unanimous)

Capital Budget Articles 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7

E. Forsberg, Chairman of Capital Budget and P. Shield, Assistant Town Administrator

Article 4 – Capital Infrastructure Improvements

Department requests of $1,059,675, Capital Budget is recommending $866,575.

MOTION MADE by D. Crowley, Seconded by A. Flowers for Favorable Action on Article 4/Capital Infrastructure Improvements in the amount of $866,575,to be funded in the amount of $616,000 from Free Cash, $250,575 from SATM,2018 #19. Motion Passed (15-0-0) (15 voting) Unanimous

Article 5 –Capital Equipment Purchase

Department requests of $2,256,093, Capital Budget is recommending $2,113,905.

MOTION MADE by D. Crowley, Seconded by K. Greulich for Favorable Action on Article 5 in the amount of $2,113,905 to be funded from Ambulance Fund-$539,855, Cable Funds - $120,000, Overlay - $12,500 and Free Cash-$1,441,550, Motion Passed (15-0-0) (15 voting) Unanimous

Committee had questions on the $400,000 request for WHS Infrastructure Assessment & Associated work. Superintendent of Schools B. Gough and School Business Manager M. Frascia and HS principal, S. Imbusch spoke of this study it will address space allocations in the schools and look to bring the schools up to date as modern buildings. Study is critical at this point to bring the high school up to date and what a modern high school should have. School Department has a list of needs. They need to know what they are up against going forward. School Department will take into place any future population growth.

Article 6/Streets & Drainage Improvement

$1,280,166 requested, Capital Budget is recommending $1,019,666 for various street and drainage improvements. $779,166 will be out of Chapter 90 Funds and the balance from Free Cash in the amount of $240,500.

MOTION MADE by D. Crowley, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action on Article 6 in the amount of $1,019,666 to be funded from Free Cash in the amount of $240,500, and $779,166 from Chapter 90 Funds, Motion Passed (15-0-0) (15 voting) Unanimous

Article 7/Street & Drainage Improvements

$900,000 being requested, Capital Budget is recommending $400,000 from Borrowing . Committee had questions on improvements to the downtown areas with sidewalks. It was explained that the department is waiting until the two major projects are completed for specific improvements. He spoke o part of the agreement with Walpole Woodworkers is that they had to do certain improvements. He is only recommending $100,000 from this article for sidewalks, at this time.

MOTION MADE by D. Crowley, Seconded by M. Ahigian for Favorable Action on Article 7 in the amount of $400,000 from Borrowing, Motion Passed (15-0-0) (15 voting) Unanimous

Article 2 – Budget Adjustments

$196,560 being requested for various budget adjustments: $40,000 for two retiring employees (Health Agent and Town Engineer), $55,000 for recycling adjustments to the contract, $75,000 for future debt and $26,560 for Town Clerk/Elections for State mandated voting, Town Meeting Electronic voting and Charter and By-law updates for Articles 19 and 20, if passed.

MOTION MADE by D. Crowley, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action on Article 2, in the amount of $196,560 from Taxation, Motion Passed (14-0-1) (J. Fisher abstained) (15 voting)

Article 3 – Fields, Capital Budget voted Favorably 6-0-0. There were six bidders (five last time) low bidder was RAS in Rockland, B. Barrett presented a slide presentation Bids were received on September 12, 2019. Project has been reduced in scope from last Spring's article. Landscaping, parking

lot, field lighting has been categorized as alternates in the event bids come in favorably. Basketball courts and playground have been eliminated entirely at this time. Total project cost is $7,985,079. Bids did not include infrastructure for sewer and water, these will come later. Safety concerns have been addressed by the police chief. This is a state road and not in a neighborhood.

Project cost $7,985,079, and funding to come from various funding sources. ($4,035,079 from cash on hand, $3,950,000 from Borrowing) A lot of the Town's debt will be paid, and to fund this will keep the debt schedule level. Town Administrator spoke to the need to do this, schools needs will have to be addressed in the future. Town has lower than average debt and higher monies than average in Free Cash. This is an investment in Town and children, project is scaled back from last Spring. Plans are that to do fundraising for the bathrooms and playground.

If passes, project will start during the winter and will take a year to build out.

MOTION MADE by D. Crowley, Seconded by A. Flowers for Favorable Action on Article 3 in the amount of $7,985,079, Motion Passed (15-0-0) (15 voting) Unanimous to be funded as follows: $4,035,079.65 from cash on hand, $3,950,000 from Borrowing. Motion Passed (15-0-0) (15 voting) Unanimous

MOTION MADE by S. Lawson, Seconded by A. Flowers to fund Article 3 in the amount of $7,985,079 as follows: $4,035,079.65 ($100,000-New Police Station, $50,000 South Street Superfund Clean-up, $168,252 Memorial Pond, $250,000 Overlay,$1,346,827 Free Cash Appropriation/2018 FATM, $200,000 New Growth and $1,920,000 /2019 FATM), and $3,950,000 from Borrowing, Motion Passed (15-0-0) (15 voting) Unanimous

Article 8 – Stabilization Fund

Balance of $4,752,284, recommending $300,000 to be funded from Free Cash.

MOTION MADE by M. Trudell, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action on Article 8, in the amount of $300,000 from Free Cash, Motion Passed (15-0-0) (15 voting) Unanimous

Article 9 – OPEB

Balance of $3,776,442, recommending $292,000 to be funded from Free Cash.

MOTION MADE by D. Crowley, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action on Article 9 in the amount of $292,000 to be funded from Free Cash, Motion Passed (15-0-0) (15 voting) Unanimous

Article 14 – Zoning By-law Amendment/Inclusionary Zoning

A.Grace and B. Barrett, members of the Affordable Housing Committee spoke to the article

It was explained that the article would require developments to include affordable housing units on a sliding scale percentage to the total development, donate land for affordable housing, make a payment in lieu of development of six or more units (10-20%) of the units Development would be required to have a Special Permit. Town Counsel is reviewing the article and verbiage may change. Committee is

looking into what other towns have done. It was noted that Affordable Housing is not low income or Section 8. The goal of the Affordable Housing Committee is not to stop development, it is to offer affordable housing for the community. This Committee is appointed by the Board of Selectmen. Planning Board is holding a public hearing on this article on Thursday, October 3, 2019.

Affordable Housing Committee will forward the final text, after review by Town Counsel, and present it to the Finance Committee and Representative Town Meeting Members, prior to Town Meeting.

MOTION MADE by D. Crowley, Seconded by S. Lawson for Recommendation at Town Meeting on Article 14, Motion Passed (15-0-0) (15 voting) Unanimous

Article 15 – Walpole Affordable Housing Trust Fund

This would create a municipal body under MGL Chapter 44, Section 55 and establish a trust fund for the creation and preservation of affordable housing in the Town for the benefit of low and moderate income households. Committee would be under the Town Administrator and would be made up of volunteers and they would not be paid. Committee is going to be very active and members would include lawyers and accountants. Committee is awaiting additional information/review from Town Counsel

MOTION MADE by D. Crowley, Seconded by S. Lawson for Recommendation at Town Meeting on Article 15, Motion Passed (14-1-0) (J. Fisher opposed) (15 voting)

Minutes

MOTION MADE by K. Greulich, Seconded by D. Shea to accept the minutes of August 29, 2019, Motion Passed (12-0-3) (D. Crowley, S. Lawson and B. Bain abstained) (15 Voting)

Meeting Schedule

Next Scheduled meeting of the Finance Committee is Monday, October 7, 2019.

Adjourn:

MOTION MADE by D. Crowley, Seconded by S. Lawson to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m. , Motion Passed (15-0-0) (15 voting) Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Clare P. Abril
Clerk