

FINANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

May 2, 2019

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Thursday, May 2, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Murphy Room, South Street Senior Center, 60 South Street with the following members present: M. Trudell, J. Burke, R. Ardine, M. Ahigian, B. Bain, D. Crowley, A. Flowers, K. Greulich, S. Lawson, R. Nottebart, D. Shea, M. Sullivan L. Van der Linden. Member absent were: A. Hamilton. Also in attendance was Town Administrator J. Johnson, Selectmen M. Gallivan, Fire Chief T. Bailey, Deputy Chief P. Barry, Police Chief J. Carmichael, Deputy Chief C. Mackenzie, Finance Director M. Thompson, Town Accountant J. Cuneo, Town Clerk, L. Gaffey, Recreation Director B. Croak, Town Engineer, M. Walker, Superintendents of Highway R. LeBlanc, Superintendent of Building Maintenance D. Anderson, Sewer and Water Commissioner W. Abbott, Health Director R. Chapell, Council on Aging Director K. McManama, School Committee Chairman W. Buckley, Building Inspector M. Yanovitch, Vehicle Maintenance Superintendent T. Perciaccante

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

Article 6 – Department Budgets

Finance Committee had previously voted Favorable Action on this article in the amount of \$93,735,408 but had not voted the funding. Committee needs to vote the funding sources: Town Administrator is recommending the following funding sources:

Taxation	\$91,363,240
Ambulance Fund	650,000
Sale of Cemetery Lots	10,000
Water Enterprise Fund	1,270,926
<u>Sewer Enterprise Fund</u>	<u>441,242</u>
	\$93,735,408

MOTION MADE by R. Ardine, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action on the funding of Article 6 – FY2020 Budget, Motion Passed (13-0-0) (13 voting) Unanimous

School Building Committee – Selectmen Committee. This is a committee made up of 15 members of which one is a member of the Finance Committee. Chairman M. Trudell asked for anyone interested in serving on this committee to let him know. This could be

a five to seven year process, and is a huge commitment. Massachusetts School Building Association dictates this committee.

Article 13 – Route 1A Field Complex

Town Administrator's Memo of May 6, to the Town Meeting Members providing additional information on this article dealing with the budget detail. Town is not pursuing the bathroom/storage facility or splash pad at this time. Time line for project is April, 2019 – bids received, May, 2019 Town Meeting, May/June, 2019, if approved construction contract awarded by BOS, Summer, 2019 construction to begin and Fall, 2010/Winter, 2021 Project completed. Borrowing on the \$7,000,000 anticipated to be 4% interest which calculates out to \$2.4 million in interest paid over 15 years. Police Chief J. Carmichael does not feel the prison population is a threat to the citizens. This 64 acre complex will be restricted for recreation only and shall expressly exclude provision of public utilities to any properties outside the Town, prohibiting the BOS and Sewer and Water Commission, or other Town Officials from entering into any intermunicipal or other agreement with any other organization or governmental body. Solar panels would be only for light and bathrooms.

Articles 20, 21 – Planning Board Articles

Planning Board holding the hearings tonight, Committee will meet on May 6, 2019 at the High School to vote on these articles. Information should be available to the Committee on May 3, 2019.

Finance Committee Public Hearing on Budgets/Articles

MOTION MADE by D. Crowley, Seconded by K. Greulich to open the Finance Committee Public Hearing on the Budgets and Articles at 7:30 p.m. Motion Passed (13-0-0) (13 voting) Unanimous

Chairman Trudell spoke to the Committee providing a recap of the articles, similar to how it is done at Town Meeting. Anyone from the audience with comments/ questions on an article put it on hold and was asked to come to the podium and ask the questions.

Article 1 – Place holder (one committee Walpole Housing Partnership)

Article 2 - Housekeeping article

Article 3 – Salary schedule

Article 4 – Salary adjustments – No Action, funding incorporated in budgets

Article 5- Current year budget adjustment, \$85,000 to Police Department

Article 6 – Operating budgets total of \$93,735,408

Article 7 - Water Enterprise Fund - funding source for water rates

Article 8- Sewer Enterprise Fund – funding source for sewer rates

Article 9 – Snow and ice deficit (no funds being requested) No action

Article 10- Prior years bills – no funds being requested No action

Article 11- Stabilization Fund \$50,000 also a line item in the general budget, transfer from Overlay to supplement
Article 12 – OPEB -no additional monies being requested at this town meeting.
Article 13 - Fields – update on funding and language of the motion.
Article 14 – Revolving Funds, changed the amount of Net Metering, not funds part of the general fund, credits back to the Town.
Article 15 – Borrowing for various projects, completed, money never borrowed, rescind the authorization to borrow. Terminating the borrowing authorization.
Article 16- Media Money transfer – special revenue source, authorizing the transfer of the fund
Article 17 – Additional exemptions on domiciles.
Article 18 – Adoption of Mullen Rule.
Article 19 – Zoning By-Laws Amendment
Article 20 – Zoning By-Laws Age Qualified Village (15 acres)
Article 21 – Zoning By-Laws Age Qualified Village (10 acres)
Article 22 – Private Petition

Electronic Voting

Adopting electronic voting, RTM Member C. Snuffer had questions on this. It was explained that was proposed to be a trial for the 2019 Spring Annual Town Meeting. He questioned why this was not included in the Town Meeting Booklet. It was explained that this needs a Town Meeting vote prior to being implemented. Funds for this trial had been provided by a Reserve Fund Transfer on March 28, 2019. If the electronic voting is turned down, Town is only responsible funding for the first night. Mr. Snuffer felt it takes away the passion from Town Meeting, it is a New England tradition.

Mr. Snuffer also questioned to the mandate to be there at 7:00 p.m. It was explained that the Town Meeting officially opens at 7:30 p.m. with the first article. This change in starting times is being presented by the Moderator, 7:00 p.m. deals only with speeches, etc. It is the opening ceremonies.

Many members of the audience spoke to the need for fields (Article 13). Different groups have had to turn people away due to lack of field space. There has been a need for additional fields for several years. Conditions of the fields are hazardous. There is no way to make up practice times and schedules when there is a weather delay. This is embarrassing to the Town.

MOTION MADE by D. Crowley, Seconded by S. Lawson to close the public hearing at 8:05 p.m., Motion Passed (13-0-0) (13 voting) Unanimous

Adjourn

MOTION MADE by D. Crowley, Seconded by M. Ahigian, to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m. , Motion Passed, Unanimous (13-0-0) (13 voting) Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Clare P. Abril
Clerk