

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes

August 4, 2014

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Monday, August 4, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the Finance Committee Room, #112, Town Hall with the following members present: S. Lawson, D. Bruce, J. Denneen, D. DiCenso, J. Lowre, M. Iwanowicz, C. Lane, J. McDermott, M. Trudell, T. Williams and 8:50 p.m. P. Hinton. Absent were: J. Burke, S. Ahmed, D. Crowley and A. Healy. Also in attendance was Interim Town Administrator J. Johnson.

7:30 p.m. – Quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by the Acting Chairperson S. Lawson. S. Lawson explained that there was a need for the Committee to meet prior to Labor Day in order to reorganize due to anticipating that the Fall meeting schedule being very busy. She is unable to serve as chairman due to the amount of work involved and outside commitments.

New Member

Welcome was extended to the new Finance Committee Member Mark Trudell, who is replacing L. Pitman.

7:35 p.m. – Reorganization of the Committee

Nominations were open for Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary

Chairman

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by J. McDermott to nominate D. Bruce as Finance Committee Chairman, Motion Approved (9-0-1) (D. DiCenso abstained) (10 voting). There were no other nominations

Conflict of Interest – In a e-mail dated July 11, 2014- State Ethics Commission has issued a ruling pertaining to D. Bruce, as a member of the Finance Committee, that he is permitted to participate in discussing and recommending on the overall School Budget. He is not allowed to vote on collective bargaining agreements relating to teacher's salaries. Mr. Bruce spoke to being open to any questions from the members.

Vice Chairman

MOTION MADE by D. DiCenso, Seconded by J. Lowe to nominate J. McDermott as Vice-Chairman, Motion Approved (10-0-0) (10 voting) There were no other nominations.

Secretary

MOTION MADE by C. Lane, Seconded by J. Lowe to nominate J. Burke as Secretary, Motion Passed (10-0-0) (10 voting) There were no other nominations.

Town Administration

Board of Selectmen, at their meeting of June 24, 2014, Board appointed James Johnson as the interim Town Administrator beginning July 18, 2014 until this position is filled.

Mr. Johnson updated the committee on the search for a Town Administrator. Board of Selectmen will begin shortly the process of hiring a consultant to do the initial work on the filling of this position. Consultant will narrow the resumes down for submittal to a search committee who will then do a first cut for the Board of Selectmen to review and interview the candidates.

Discussion ensued on having a representative from the Finance Committee on this search committee. Consensus was that due to the amount of time the Committee spends with the Town Administrator, this is important to have a representative and a voice on this search committee. Board of Selectmen will be meeting on August 5 to discuss this further. It is not know whether the Selectmen will appoint a search committee or do the screening and review of the applications themselves. Anticipate cost to hire a consulting firm is approximately \$15,000 to \$18,000 and the funding will be requested through a Reserve Fund Transfer. Purpose of a search committee is to review the applications and narrow the applicants down, allowing the Selectmen to have a small group to review. The setting up of a search committee is the Selectmen's call. They have not yet decided how to handle this. Committee felt that if the opportunity becomes available to have a member present, they should be ready.

8:50 p.m. – Committee Member P. Hinton

Chairman Lawson asked who was willing to serve on this search committee if the opportunity arises to have a representative. FinCom should be ready. Members interested in serving were J. Denneen, M. Iwanowicz, M. Trudell and S. Lawson.

J. Johnson will relay to the Selectmen that the Committee would like to have input on the selection process. Intention of the Board is to go nationwide. Search committee will meet and each be provided with a set of resumes, make comments and provide input to the Board.

Ballot Question/2 1/2 Override

Board of Selectmen have requested permission from the Secretary of State's Office to place on the November 4, 2014 State Election ballot permission for a bond to pay the

costs of architectural design and constructing, originally equipping and furnishing a new Police Station, Senior Center, Fire Station, and Public Works building, renovation of and equipping of and improvements to the Town Hall, Public Works Garage and current Police Station (as part of the new Fire Station) and associated work.

October 20, 2014 Fall Town Meeting

Warrant for the October 20, 2014 Fall Town Meeting will close on August 19, 2014. Mr. Johnson updated the Committee on possible articles for Town Meeting. Article for the town facilities, OPEB, and possible purchase of Sharon Country Day, this would be purchased through the water rates but Town Meeting would have to accept the property. Property would be purchased by the Sewer and Water Commissioners with the intent to protect the aquifer. It would cost approximately \$48 per year as a surcharge. Property could possibly be used for headquarters for recreation. It consists of 24 acres and abuts the town forest and town wells. There is also talk that this property being purchased as a 40B, consisting of approximately 200 units, purchase price of 6.5 million. J. Johnson would conduct any of the negotiations for the town. Conservation Commission is proposing some language changes to the By-laws. There are no capital projects anticipated with the exception of Chapter 90 funds.

Facilities Outreach Meetings

Board of Selectmen will be hosting a series of public outreach session to discuss the Facilities Plan to be presented in the Fall on the following dates: August 5, August 12, August 26, September 2 and September 6 at various locations throughout the town. FinCom Members should attend as many meetings as possible.

FY2015 Budget – Awaiting new growth and free cash numbers. Should be available next month. Four union contracts pending, Police are looking for concessions for the Quinn Bill and changes in the percentage being paid on employees insurance. Unions are presently operating under existing contracts. Personnel – Parks foreman has retired and there are 5 internal candidates.

Minutes

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by J. McDermott to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2014 meeting, Motion Passed (8-3-0) (C. Lane, M. Trudell and D. DiCenso abstained) (11 voting)

Finance Committee
Minutes
August 4, 2014
Page 4

Adjourn:

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Motion Passed Unanimously (11-0-0) (12 voting)

Respectfully submitted,

Clare P. Abril
Clerk