

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

### **Minutes**

**September 10, 2015**

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Thursday, September 10, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in Room #112, Town Hall with the following members present: D. Bruce, J. Denneen, J. McDermott, M. Trudell, J. Lowre, K. Guyette, J. Vaillancourt, A. Healy, S. Lawson. Members absent: J. Burke, T. Bowen, D. Crowley, P. Hinton, R. Mariani, and P. Stasiukevicius. Also in attendance was Fire Chief T. Bailey.

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

### **October 19, 2015 Fall Annual Town Meeting Warrant**

#### **Appointments**

#### **Articles 9 and 10 – Sewer and Water Articles**

Speaking to these articles was Superintendent of Water and Sewer R. Mattson and Sewer and Water Commissioner R. Abbott.

#### **Article 9 – PCB Removal**

This article is for a supplemental appropriation of funds (\$115,000) to complete the removal of PCB contaminated soil and restoration of the High Plain Street Water Storage Tank. Funding will be covered through water rates. Water retained earnings balance is \$306,548.

Mr. Mattson explained that under Article 20 of the 2015 Fall Annual Town Meeting \$500,000 was appropriated from Water Retained Earnings to perform remediation services including soil removal to the High Plain Street Water Storage Tank. Soil testing revealed that the contamination was far more extensive than originally thought. There are still pockets within the site at a higher level of 1.0 part per million of PCB 's. Due to proximity of the site to nearby residences, the Town is committed to clean the site to acceptable standards. Novis Engineering provided a summary of the soil and concrete sample analytical results under Article 20 dated August 24, 2015. It is unknown the point of origin of these pcb's, site has been in control of the Town since 1800's. It is doubtful it was an industrial complex. Town employee's enter the site daily and Town does not want a hazardous site on a main thoroughfare. It is an active water pump station and EPA has required the concrete wall to be decontaminated. Problem at this site is more than thought initially. Sewer and Water Commissioners intend to have the EPA attend the Town Meeting. After the clean up, it will remain an empty lot with a pump

station. Committee questioned the possibility of installing an antennae on this site, Mr. Mattson said the site elevation was too low. Committee also asked if pump station were moved to Old Post Road site, could the land possibly be sold. Mr. Mattson and Abbott indicted it's not likely the site would be attractive to buyers with the site's hazardous waste history. Sewer and Water Commissioners have no other use for the site other than pump station, and if it was to be removed, cost is unknown and this would only be considered if the land could be reused

**MOTION MADE** by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action on Article 9 in the amount of \$115,000 from Borrowing. Motion Passed (9-0-0) (9 voting) (Unanimous)

Mr. Mattson spoke to being available to the Committee members if they wished to tour the High Plain Street site.

#### **Article 10 – Sewer Enterprise Fund**

This is a housekeeping article. \$200,000 being requested from Sewer Enterprise Fund Retained earnings to be used as an additional funding source for the FY2016 Sewer Department Operational Budget. This will be for rate stabilization and to offset a significant increase in the MWRA sewer rates. This amount has already been built into the rates and will come out of Sewer Retained Earnings. Sewer and Water Commissioners can't appropriate money and would need to go before the Fall Town Meeting. June 30, 2015 balance in Sewer retained earnings was \$2,088,794. Sewer and Water Commissioners voted 5-0-0 for this article. Committee inquired of other capital needs to which Mr. Mattson indicated the Commissioners are seeking a review of the Sewer Master Plan and the extension of sewers in East Walpole.

**MOTION MADE** by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action on Article 10 in the amount of \$200,000 from Sewer Enterprise Retained Earnings, Motion Passed (9-0-0) (9 voting) Unanimous

**October 19, 2015 Town Meeting Articles** – These articles were presented by the Town Administrator at the September 3, 2015 meeting.

#### **Article 3 – Medicaid Reimbursement**

**MOTION MADE** by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action on Article 3 in the amount of \$392,372 from Free Cash, Motion Passed (9-0-0) (9 voting) Unanimous

#### **Article 4 – McKinney Vento Act**

**MOTION MADE** by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action on Article 4 in the amount of \$27,000 from Free Cash, Motion Passed (9-0-0) (9 voting) Unanimous

**Article 5 – FY16 Student Parking**

**MOTION MADE** by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action on Article 5 in the amount of \$34,980 from Free Cash, Motion Passed (9 -0-0) (9 voting) Unanimous

**Minutes - August 3, 2015**

**MOTION MADE** by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action on the August 3, 2015 meeting, Motion Passed (8-0-1) (K. Guyette abstained) (9 voting)

**Adjourn:**

**MOTION MADE** by J. Denneen, Seconded by J. Lowre to adjourn at 7:50 p.m., Motion Passed (9-0-0) (9 voting) Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Clare P. Abril  
Clerk