

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes

September 23, 2013

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Monday, September 23, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. with the following members present: L. Pitman, D.DiCenso, C. Lane, D. Bruce, J. Denneen, S. Lawson, J. Burke, P. Hinton, J. McDermott and M. Iwanowicz. Absent were S. Ahmed, D. Crowley, M. Kent, J. Lowre and T. Williams. Also in attendance was Town Accountant M. Thompson, Town Accountant J. Cuneo, Fire Chief T. Bailey, and Town Administrator M. Boynton.

7:30 p.m. – Quorum being present the meeting was called to order by the Chairman L. Pitman.

October 21, 2013 Fall Annual Town Meeting

Article 12 – Memorial Park Improvements

Speaking to this article was S. Mercandetti, Community & Economic Development Director, D. Anderson, Superintendent of Building Maintenance and Recreation Director J. Cole.

Requested amount of \$251,099 and will be done with a Grant application. Under this article they are requesting replacing the existing wading pool and a ADA chair lift. Funding for the repairs to the wading pool were previously approved under a borrowing article last Spring. If the Town doesn't receive the Grant, Town will have to pay 100% for the repairs. Also included in this Grant application is repairs to the parking lot Town has been cited for grading around the pool, and lack of handicap accessibility Work around the playground is not being proposed under this article, it is hoped that some of the work for the playground could be done through private donations. If the Grant is not approved, parking lot would go as a capital project at some future time and wont' be fixed a this time. Project will take approximately one month and will be started in the Spring, 2014.

Town should know whether it receives the Grant sometime in November. If Grant is approved, Town should be reimbursed approximately 58% of the cost (\$145,637). Notification of the awarding Awards of Grant should be known in November

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action on Article 12 in the amount of \$251,099 by Borrowing, Motion Passed (9-0-1) (D. DiCenso abstained) (10 voting)

Town Administrator spoke to if Grant is approved, the authorization for the wading pool approved last year would be rescinded. He does not want any conditions put on this motion.

Article 13 – Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers

Speaking to this article was S. Mercandetti and Deputy Police Chief J. Carmichael.

It was explained that this article will amend the Schedule of Use Regulations in the Zoning By-laws for the purpose of regulating Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers. Article includes specific language for a 500 ft buffer requirement from the State regulations. Language is similar to what the Town currently has for Adult Entertainment Uses. Use would be allowed by a Special Permit through the Zoning Board of Appeals in the Industrials District. Town cannot ban these treatment centers, but has to have a suitable location. Use cannot be banned, but Town can regulate where it goes. Town Counsel has reviewed the language. Planning Board will hold a public hearing on this article on October 3, 2013.

Planning Board public hearing 10/3/2013

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action on Article 13, Motion Passed (10-0-0) (10 voting) Unanimous

Article 18 – Authorization for the Selectmen/Assessors to engage into an Agreement in Lieu of Taxes

Town Administrator spoke to receiving the draft agreement today on this article and it has been forwarded to Town Counsel for review. Agreement for payment in lieu of taxes for real property and personal property for a solar photovoltaic energy generating facility at 33 Industrial Road. It calls for a 10 year lease, possibly being extended out for 25 years. Town Administrator in favor of 20 years. Site would be leased from Lorusso. Presently there is no system in place in the Commonwealth for taxing solar or standard method for assessing. It was suggested that the Town do a pilot program. Town Meeting authorizes the Selectmen and Assessors to enter into the agreement. There is a depreciation issue. Value of project is roughly 3 million dollars. Town doesn't want any negative uses on this site. Property owner responsible for liability on project. Estimated that Town will receive \$1,107,000.

Chief Bailey spoke to the Fire Department had made recommendations on the siting of the facility, shut offs, etc. Facility has to be on a gravel and secure site. Biggest hazard is electrocution.

Agreement based on an agreement from East Hampton. This is a pilot program and would be a personal property tax.

MOTION MADE by D. Bruce, Seconded by J. Denneen for Favorable Action on Article 18, Motion Passed (10-0-0) (10 voting) Unanimous

Town Administrator will provide the Committee with a copy of the agreement.

Finance Committee Tours

A date will be set up for the Committee to look at the request for repairs for the Turner Pond Dam and Central Business District

Adjourn

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson to adjourn at 8:50 p.m., Motion Passed (10-0-0) (10 voting) Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Clare P. Abril
Clerk