

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes

September 26, 2013

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Thursday, September 26, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. in the Finance Committee Room, Town Hall with the following members present: L. Pitman, J. Burke, D. Bruce, M. Kent, J. Denneen, C. Lane, D. DiCenso, M. Iwanowicz, D. Crowley and J. McDermott. Absent were: S. Ahmed, S. Lawson, P. Hinton, T. Williams and J. Lowre. Also in attendance was Assistant Town Administrator J. Johnson, Finance Director M. Thompson, Town Accountant J. Cuneo and DPW Director R. O'Brien.

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

Present for the discussion on Capital Budget articles were Capital Budget Members: C. Lane, (FinCom Representative), D. Sullivan, J. Spillane, W. Abbott, Town Engineer M. Walker, Highway Superintendent R. LeBlanc and D. Hand, Assistant Superintendent of Highways and P. Baril from GZA GEOENVIRONMENTAL

Article 7 – Streets and Drainage Improvements

J. Johnson spoke to under Article 7, \$764,576 is being requested to be funded by Chapter 90 monies for the Central Business District improvements. Capital Budget voted 7-0-0 in favor of this. They also recommended that traffic signals and conduit be included in this article, if possible. It is not know whether or not there is sufficient monies to include this. Town's pavement management system has been put on hold for one year. Town will continue to look for any possible grant monies that might be available. The reason for the request for this appropriation at the Fall Town Meeting is in order that the project would be ready to go forward in the Spring. Downtown needs to be done, but it is not know whether the Selectmen really know what they want to do. Pavement Management Program would be postponed. This is only a request for authorization to borrow.

Committee questioned whether it was possible to use the prison mitigation monies for this project and keep the pavement management program ongoing. Selectmen want the improvements to the CBD to go forward.

MOTION MADE by D. Bruce, Seconded by J. Denneen for Favorable Action on Article 7 in the amount of \$764,576 from Chapter 90 monies, Motion Passed (10-0-0) (10 voting) Unanimous

Article 11 – Turner Pond Dam

Town Engineer M. Walker spoke to Article 11 Turner Pond Dam Improvements in the amount of \$360,000 to be funded from Free Cash. Dam is located on Mill Pond Road off of Elm Street. Town received a letter in March , 2013 from Department of Conservation and Recreation to fix the dam and bring it into compliance by October 30, 2014. Project will need approval from the Town’s Conservation Commission for any work on this project, also DEP and Army Corps of Engineers. State has approved the permitting processing. After completion of the project, it will be up to the Town to maintain it afterwards. Dam is inspected every 5 years. Capital Budget Committee voted 7-0-0 in favor of this article. Town will have to budget funds for future maintenance of this dam.

Committee had questions on when the work would be done and possibly only appropriate the design phase at this time and ask for the remaining money in the Spring Town Meeting at which time it will be better know what scope of the project is. M. Walker anticipates the work to be done in late August, 2014 if approval is granted now. All the specs and plans would be ready to go now and, if doesn’t go forward at this time, could miss the next construction season. Repairs to Mill Pond Road would be included in the design phase. Neighbors would have access to their homes when the construction work is being done.

Original documents on the dam will be reviewed to see if the landlord has any responsibility, and research who has the control.

Town has five dams in the Town: Cobbs, Allen, the dam behind the high school, Memorial and Turner’s Pond. .

Grant has been applied for and it is not known when it will be awarded and how much would be obtained. Town needs to meet deadlines on this project. Some members spoke to being in favor of doing the whole project, sometimes they didn’t get finished. Feels that they would require us to become more, have to trust that will turn back money that aren’t being used, end have a project state will pleased.

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by C. Lane for Favorable Action on Article 11 in the amount of \$360,000 to be funded from Free Cash, Motion Passed (9-1-0) (D. Bruce opposed) (10 voting)

Article 6 – Capital Equipment

No request at this time.

MOTION MADE by D. Bruce, Seconded by J. McDermott for No Action on Article 6, Motion Passed (10-0-0) (10 voting)

Article 8 – Improvements to Buildings

MOTION MADE by D. Bruce, Seconded by J. McDermott for No Action on Article 8, Motion Passed (10-0-0) (10 voting)

Finance Committee Tours

Committee will meet on Monday, September 30, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. for a tour, and if time permits the Central Business District.

Article 2 – Budget Adjustments

Library -

S. Genovese, Director and Trustees H. Howard and D. Wildnauer present to speak on this request. Library originally submitted their request for \$14,895.14 to include an additional part time clerk and extend the hours of existing clerks. With the addition of this person and additional hours, it will allow the library to be open from 10:00 a.m. till 9:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Also will allow the meeting rooms to be better managed. Presently there is only one room that can be used after 8:00 p.m. As the Town's population increases to 25,000, they will be required to be open 59 hours. Presently they are open 52 hours. Full time staff works 35 hours. Library does not charge for the use of the meeting rooms.

Library is now requesting a reduced amount of \$7,448 to include a new library clerk and increase the hours of two clerks. They would like to ask for additional staff in segments. They don't feel that there are any additional costs incurred with these additional hours. This position is not eligible for health benefits. \$8,000 had been turned back to the town last year in the electrically line item.

Staffing in the Library presently includes four full time personnel and nine part time clerks.

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by J. Burke for Favorable Action on the request for additional monies for Library Salaries in the amount of \$7,448, Motion Passed (10-0-0) (10 voting) Unanimous

Minutes

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by J. McDermott to accept the minutes of September 19, 2013, Motion Passed (10-0-0) (10 voting) Unanimous

Adjourn:

MOTION MADE by D. Bruce, Seconded by J. McDermott to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m., Motion Passed (10-0-0) (10 voting) Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Clare P. Abril
Clerk