

## **Finance Committee**

### **Minutes**

**September 28, 2015**

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Monday, September 28, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Finance Committee Room, Town Hall with the following members present: D. Bruce, J. Burke, J. Denneen, J. Vaillancourt, T. Bowen, J. Stasiukevicius, S. Lawson, M. Trudell J. Lowre and A. Healy. Members absent were: J. McDermott, D. Crowley, K. Guyette, P. Hinton, R. Mariani. Also in attendance was Town Administrator J. Johnson, Fire Chief T. Bailey, Finance Director M. Thompson and Town Accountant J. Cuneo.

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

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

##### **Town Administrator –**

**Article 29 – Open Space Residential Development** – Town Administrator spoke to a legal opinion from Legal Counsel dated September 24, 2015 regarding this private petition. Petition, as presented, does not have any fatal flaws but the Town would need to undertake certain actions during the moratorium to avoid potential challenges. Reasonable time period would be necessary for the planning and implementation. Petitioner would have to set under the article a specific date on which the moratorium would conclude. Town would also need to commit time or resources to address the planning and legal issues on such a moratorium. If this is adopted a date needs to be put in place by the petitioner. Committee discussed that there needs to be a plan of action on what will happen during the time of the moratorium. Planning Board would need to make the changes, then Town Meeting needs to accept it.

Committee discussed on what their motion should be on this article. Petition needs to provide a date certain. If it is passed at Town Meeting, plan of action could then be formulated. Issues need to be clarified. Any motion of the Finance Committee could be amended at Town Meeting floor. Sub-committee could be established to oversee the proposal. Planning Board did not want to sponsor the article. Committee questioned whether we should continue with Open Space Development, what are the benefits to the Town for an Open Space Development. Petitioner has expressed legitimate concerns but there is a need to do more work to make it right. Committee shares the concerns of the petitioner. Legal opinion spoke to the concerns and the plan of action to address them.

**MOTION MADE** by J. Vaillancourt for No Action. There was no second to the motion.

**MOTION MADE** by T. Bowen, Seconded by S. Lawson to Refer Back to Petitioner, Motion Passed (9-0-1) (P. Stasiukevicius) (10 voting)

**Article 2 – FY2016 Budget Adjustments**

Town Administrator is recommending \$199,603 from Taxation for the following budget adjustments: \$42,000 for the Town Clerk's Salary Line Item. (This is due to the Selectmen wanting to appoint a full time clerk and shortages in the salary line item due to pay outs for sick leave buy back and vacation time due to Assistant Town Clerk and Town Clerk.) Selectmen feel the need for this position to be full time due the knowledge of regulations required for this position. Town Clerk is appointed by the Board of Selectmen and Personnel Board sets the salary range. Walpole is one of a few towns that do not have a full time Town Clerk: \$55,000 for the Reserve Fund for Miscellaneous Operational Reserve to cover any unexpected items that may come up throughout the rest of the fiscal year and \$102,603 for the Debt Budget for the purpose of covering unexpected costs for the new municipal facilities. Town Administrator has discussed the School Budget with the Superintendent, presently there is no issue with the School Budget. Town Administrator is not recommending any additional monies at this time for this budget.

Members discussed separating the position of Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk in the article, and debating the issue separately in front of Town Meeting. Motion could be split.

J. Vaillancourt would like to see separated the Assistant Town Clerk, and Town Clerk in the motion.

**MOTION MADE** by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action on Article 2 in the amount of \$199,603 from Taxation for the following budgets: \$42,000 for the Town Clerk's Budget, \$55,000 for the Reserve Fund and \$102,603 for the Debt Budget, Motion Passed (9-1-0) (J. Vaillancourt opposed) (10 voting)

**Articles 14 – 28 Zoning Articles**

Committee discussed if there was no direct financial impact to a zoning article, the need for the Finance Committee to vote on it. Finance Committee makes the Main Motion on all articles at Town Meeting. Planning Board is holding the public hearings on the zoning articles on October 1, 2015 for any members interested in attending. Chairman Bruce will defer to the Planning Board at Town Meeting on the discussion of these articles.

**Minutes**

**September 14, 2015**

**MOTION MADE** by J. Denneen, Seconded by T. Bowen to accept the minutes of the September 14, 2015 meeting, Motion Passed (9-0-1) (P. Stasiukevicius abstained) (10 voting)

**September 21, 2015**

**MOTION MADE** by J. Denneen, Seconded by P. Stasiukevicius to accept the minutes of the September 21, 2015 meeting, Motion Passed (7-0-3) (J. Vaillancourt, J. Lowre and D. Bruce abstained) (10 voting)

**Finance Committee Schedule**

Next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Thursday, October 15, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. to vote on any articles that are Recommendation at Town Meeting. Public Hearing on the Budgets is scheduled for that evening at 7:30 p.m.

**Adjourn:**

**MOTION MADE** by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Motion Seconded, Motion Passed (10-0-0) (10 voting) Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Clare P. Abril  
Clerk