

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes

September 30, 2013

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Monday, September 30, 2013 in Room #112, Town Hall with the following members present: L. Pitman, J. Burke, C Lane, M Kent, M. Iwanowicz, J. Denneen, J. McDermott, D. DiCenso, D. Bruce, P. Hinton, S. Lawson, S. Ahmed, and 8:30 p.m. D. Crowley. Members Absent: J. Lowre, T. Williams. Also in attendance was Town Administrator M. Boynton, Finance Director M. Thompson, Town Accountant J. Cuneo, Fire Chief T. Bailey, and DPW Director R. O'Brien.

Also in attendance were residents: J. Moraski, W. Hamilton, Selectmen C. Snuffer, D. Murphy, D. Merrikan, T. Driscoll. Sewer and Water Commissioners ,J. Spillane, P. Fasanello, and K. Fettig and Superintendent of Water and Sewer R. Mattson, and Attorney P. Macchi II.

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

October 21, 2013 Fall Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Articles 15, 16, 17 – Walpole Park South

Town Administrator spoke to Walpole Park South Article 24 in the May 6, 2013 Spring Annual Town Meeting being referred back to the Selectmen due to many outstanding issues. Parties involved met in early June on where this was going and Town Administrator has had the opportunity to do the research and look into the history of the project. Before the Town at this Town Meeting is 1)street acceptance and 2)ownership of the sewer pump station. Meeting went well with the expectation that the roadway would be accepted and pump station would remain private. Some members of the Sewer and Water Commission had issues with taking over the pump station due to being in the aquifer and if is under the Town's ownership, Town would have to assume the maintenance and would have control of it. Last year one article had been proposed, and it was decided that it would be best handled in three articles. Sewer and Water Commissioners met on September 23, 2013 and voted 3-2-0 to take ownership of the pump station along with the utilities. Sewer and Water Commissioners have the authority to reconsider this vote until it is recorded. Vote of the Commissioners and recording is all that is needed per Town Counsel for this acceptance. Town Administrator is in receipt of this opinion. It will not be recorded till after Town Meeting. By the Commissioners vote, Articles 16 and 17 don't need to go forward.

FinCom discussed that if it is not necessary for Articles 16 and 17 to go forward, they would like it not to be brought up for discussion at Town Meeting. Sewer and Water

Commissioners vote stands, they have the final say. It doesn't require a vote on the floor of Town Meeting either way.

Commissioners felt that there were several different parcels and if they were sold off, nobody would take responsibility for the care and maintenance of the pump station.

Commissioner P. Fassanello spoke to if the Town takes ownership and something goes wrong, Town will incur the costs to fix it. Pump stations are expensive to maintain. He also spoke to only 72% of the residents would pay for this as only the ones on Town sewer would be charged. WPS is called a subdivision but it seems to be an industrial park with five different trusts controlled by one person. Sewer and Water Commissioners voted five years ago not to taken ownership of any more pump stations, they would like them to be gravity fed.

Selectmen Snuffer spoke to the warrant under the jurisdiction of the Board of Selectmen and it has been reviewed by Counsel. Commissioners have taken the lead role and it makes the conversation of Town Meeting mute and article should be removed from the warrant.

D. Murphy, property owner, spoke to the property and pump station has been maintained. Town receives over \$635,000 in taxes and receives very few services. What services they receive, feels they are entitled to with the amount of taxes paid. Planning Board had certain recommendations on property and these have been done. There are restrictions on property and use. Town should be protected and he has done everything that the Town wants.

Committee members spoke to more clarity on the information than was available last Spring. It is the best interest of the Town to have ownership of pump station due to sensitivity to the aquifer.

Article 15 – Accept Walpole Park South as a Public Way

MOTION MADE by C. Lane, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action on Article 15, Motion Passed (12-0-0) (12 voting) Unanimous

Article 16 – Walpole Park South Pump Station Acquisition

MOTION MADE by C. Lane, Seconded by S. Lawson to Indefinitely Postpone, Motion Passed (12-0-0) (12 voting) Unanimous

Article 17 –Pine Street Sewer Easement Plan Rights

MOTION MADE by C. Lane, Seconded by S. Lawson to Indefinitely Postpone, Motion Passed (12-0-0) (12 voting) Unanimous

8:30 p.m. – Committee Member D. Crowley

Article 2 – FY2014 Budget Adjustments

Town Administrator presented two motions for FY2014 budget adjustments to the Committee with money included in one adjustment for the Drug and Alcohol Coalition in the amount of \$17,900 under Police Department-Expenses. If this money is not allocated to the Police Department, it will go into the Reserve Fund.

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by C. Lane for Favorable Action on Article 2 in the amount of \$460,019 from Free Cash for the following budgets: Treasurer/Collector Expenses \$10,000, Legal Services Expenses \$20,000, Town Clerk Expenses \$6,000, Police Department Salaries \$40,287, Police Department Expenses \$4400, Schools \$237,613, Library Salaries \$7448, Debt Services \$100,000, Reserve Fund \$34,271, Motion Passed, (13-0-0) (13 voting) Unanimous

Article 3 – Medicaid Reimbursement

MOTION MADE by C. Lane, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action in the amount of \$275,390 from Free Cash, Motion Passed (13-0-0) (13 voting) Unanimous

Article 4 – FY2014 Student Parking

MOTION MADE by D. Bruce, Seconded by J. Burke for Favorable Action in the amount of \$36,140 from Free Cash, Motion Passed (12-0-1) (D. DiCenso abstained) (13 voting)

Article 5 –Unpaid Bills

There are presently no unpaid bills from prior years pending.

MOTION MADE by D. Crowley, Seconded by J. Denneen for No Action, Motion Passed (13-0-0) (13 voting)

Article 6 – Capital Equipment

No equipment being request for this Town Meeting.

MOTION MADE by D. Crowley, Seconded by J. Denneen for No Action, Motion Passed (13-0-0) (13 voting) Unanimous

Article 9 – Stabilization Fund

Monies in the Stabilization Fund can only be transferred by a vote of Town Meeting. This fund has never been dipped into for operational other than the bleachers at high school. Town Meeting put in \$400,000 in this account last Fall. Balance is approximately 1.6 million.

MOTION MADE by D. Crowley, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action on Article 9 in the amount of \$250,000 from Free Cash, Motion Passed (13-0-0) (13 voting) Unanimous

Article 10 – Other Post Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund (OPEB)

Town presently pays as it goes for retiree medical benefits. There is also money put in the operating budget for this. Town is suppose to be obligated to pay approximately 1.2 million each year. Town future obligation is anticipated to be \$44,806,135.

Town Administrator spoke to the Town needs to have a complete shift in funding requirements for this fund. Other communities that have got into trouble were due to them dipping into pension funds for ongoing requirements, for political gain. Town cannot pass a budget that isn't balanced. Town now pays for services year by year. Norfolk County Retirement Board is putting together informational sessions to discuss this issue.

MOTION MADE by D. Bruce, Seconded by P. Hinton for Favorable Action on Article 10 in the amount of \$250,000 from Free Cash, Motion Passed (13-0-0) (13 voting) Unanimous

Article 14 – Social Host Responsibility

Finance Committee had previously discussed amending the language under Section 468-3 – Prohibiting Activity. Town Administrator spoke to this change in language would not be enlarging the scope of the article.

Committee discussed that it is the parent' responsibility, parents need to be educated. Monies should be spent on informing the parents. Chief Stillman spoke to the community needs to begin fund raising, under age alcohol consumption is a community problem. Parents need to attend speaking events. They have run sessions and only coalition members are attending. Parents need a wake up call. It should be the parent's responsibility and a by-law will not change this or the implementation of a fine, clean up every situation. Implementation of the by-law helps police do their job, it is a worthwhile tool. Parents shouldn't have to rely on these things, but it is necessary. Puts people on notice.

Chief Stillman spoke to the need to begin fund raising for this issue, it is a community problem. Parents need to attend speaking events, sometimes only people that come are

the members of the coalition. Last year parents were required to attend a informational meeting prior to the prom. This year it was not a requirement to attend and very few showed up. Feels it is important to have the conversation at Town Meeting. Committee members didn't feel it should be mandated in order to attend the prom.

MOTION MADE by D. Crowley, Seconded by J. Denneen for Favorable Action on Article 14 – Social Host Responsibility with amended language under Section 468-3: Prohibited Activity: (*Second line after where: that Person knows, or has reason to know that,*), Motion Passed (12-1-0) (13 voting)

Minutes

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by M. Iwanowicz to approve the minutes of September 23, 2013, Motion Passed (12-0-1) (S. Ahmed abstained) (13 voting)

Tours

Finance Committee will commence touring the Town's facilities after Town Meeting. Scheduled to be determined at that time.

Adjourn

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by P. Hinton to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m., Motion Passed (13-0-0) (13 voting) Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Clare P. Abril
Clerk