

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes

September 4, 2014

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Thursday, September 4, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the Finance Committee Room, #112, Town Hall with the following members present: D. Bruce, S. Lawson, M. Iwanowicz, J. Denneen, C. Lane, J. Burke, J. McDermott, D. Crowley, A. Healy, T. Williams, M. Trudell. Absent were S. Ahmed, P. Hinton, J. Lowre Also in attendance was Acting Town Administrator J. Johnson.

7:30 p.m. – Quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by the Chairman D. Bruce.

Resignation

Committee Member D. DiCenso has resigned and will be moving out of Walpole. Moderator has been notified.

Interim Town Administrator

Interim Town Administrator J. Johnson recapped the proposed Fall Town Meeting Schedule dealing with the October 20, 2014 Town Meeting Warrant

FY2015 Revenue Expenditure Comparisons

Anticipate budget shortfalls in the Town Accountant's Office due to the Assistant Town Accountant being ill and out on an extended length of time and the need to fill this position temporarily. Monies will be requested from the Reserve Fund for the search for the Town Administrator.

October 20, 2014 FATM Articles

Mr. Johnson provided a summary of the articles.

Article 2 – FY2015 Budget Adjustments – Planning Board will be requesting \$15,000 to hire a consultant. It was explained that this is for help with the proposed Islamic Cemetery located on Route 1 and other issues of the Planning Board that they need assistance with. Planning Board did encumber the money from last year's budget. Hiring for his position falls under the prevue of the Planning Board.

Article 3 – FY2015 Medicaid Reimbursement - \$298,952.27

Article 4 – FY2015 Student Parking Fees - \$34,650

Article 5 – Unpaid bills – Article will be kept open pending receipt of any unpaid bills. None known at his time.

Articles 6, 7 and 8 – No capital items being requested at this town meeting. (Chapter 90 will be done in the Spring/2015 and will be bid out in March or April.

Article 9 – Stabilization - \$1,286,887.24 current balance. Mr. Johnson is looking for direction on the use of these funds and funding OPEB. Question is do we want to put more money for OPEB. Discussion held off till the Certified Free Cash number is known, at which time Committee will look at providing further funding for OPEB.

School Department will be looking for a Reserve Fund in Spring due to an anticipate short fall in Special Ed. Prison Mitigation Funds of \$800,000 anticipated to be received in November or December.

Article 10 – OPEB – Held for further discussion

Articles 11-14 –Contracts

Scheduled to be ratified on September 17 and 18.

Articles 11 – 14 Union Contracts. Library, DPW and Clerical are scheduled to be ratified on September 17. Town received concessions of 60/40 on insurance and paperless payroll. Savings will offset the percentage increase given. Police still in negotiations and hopefully this will be settled soon. Selectmen will be voting on the non-union shortly. Town Administrator is meeting with the Insurance Advisory Committee on Monday, September 8, 2014 with MIIA, meeting on the GIC.

Articles 15, 16 17 – Superfund Sites/Municipals Buildings

Discuss with Selectmen on September 15. This may be rescheduled.

Article 18 – Sharon Country Day

Committee to attend Sewer and Water Commissioners meeting on September 8. Commissioners want to purchase this parcel through the water rates. Purchase and Sale Agreement being reviewed by Town Counsel and eventually will have to be reviewed by Bond Counsel. Commissioners have the authority to purchase it but do need to obtain Town Meeting approval. Anticipated cost to the average house is \$75 and be done over 20 years. Purchase of property protects the aquifer, it is in Area 1. Tours of property will be offered prior to Town Meeting for residents. Many questions whether the Town will have to pay the Sewer and Water Commissions to use it or possibly lease it for a \$1.00 and who would maintain the property.

Article 19 – Infiltration and Inflow Removal Program

\$336,0550 for Phase VIII and Phase 1X

Article 20 – Removal of PCB's

Removal of the PCB's at the water tank at 193 High Plain St. Amount requested is not know at this time, Sewer and Water Commissioners will have to obtain quotes. Committee also had questions on the status of the Old Post Road water tank

Articles 21, 22 and 23 – Conservation Articles. Conservation Agent and Chairman of the Conservation Commission scheduled to come before the Committee on Thursday September 11, 2014.

Articles 24 – 29 – Zoning By-laws/Zoning Overlay Map

Planning Board to hold public hearings on October 2, 2014.

Article 28 – Solar Farm

Baker Hughes on Neponset St. Public Hearing scheduled for October 2 by Planning Board. Petitioner scheduled for October 9, 2014.

Article 29 – Solar Farm

Bird & Son on Norfolk St. Public Hearing scheduled for October 2 by Planning Board. Petitioner scheduled for October 9, 2014.

Articles 30-39 Street Acceptances – Public Hearing by the Board of Selectmen on September 16, 2014.

School Tours

School Tours - Some FinCom Members toured some of the schools to see the status of the capital improvements.

Special Ed Vehicle Purchase

Special Ed Vehicle Memo dated 8/12/2014, School Department has initiated the purchase of a new special ed vehicle. School Department feels that this purchase will pay for itself. New student going to Charlestown and they have no vehicle available to transport this student. Vehicle should pay for itself in 157 days.

Minutes

Finance Committee
Minutes
September 4, 2014
Page 4

August 4, 2014 – Minutes will be reissued with corrections.

Adjourn:

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Motion passed Unanimously (11-0-0) (11 voting)

Respectfully submitted,

Clare P. Abril
Clerk