

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes

September 29, 2014

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Monday, September 29, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the Finance Committee Room, Town Hall with the following members present: D. Bruce, J. Burke, C. Lane, A. Healy, J. Denneen, S. Lawson, J. McDermott, T. Williams, M. Trudell, M. Iwanowicz and P. Hinton. Absent were: S. Ahmed, D. Crowley and J. Lowre. Also in attendance was Finance Director M. Thompson, Town Accountant J. Cuneo and Fire Chief T. Bailey.

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

October 20, 2014 Fall Annual Town Meeting

Articles 11-14 Municipal Contracts

Interim Town Administrator J. Johnson reported on the status of the union contracts.

Article 11 – DPW

J. Johnson had anticipated that the contract would be ratified today, but was advised that on a 16-10 vote that the MOA that was agreed upon previously was rejected. It will not be going forward. No specific reasons were given as to why it was rejected. He felt that one of the reasons was that they did not receive enough on the insurance concessions. Next step is unknown. It is unknown where to go, might be arbitration. Cost of the arbitrator is split between Town and union. Money will be set aside in a separate account. There is no impetus to settle sooner, all monies are retroactive.

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for No Action, Motion Passed (11-0-0) (11 voting)

Article 12 – Clerical

COLA adjustments for FY2015 2%, FY2016 2.75% and FY2016 2.75%. Anticipated cost to fund this contract is \$15,402. All employees will go to paperless payroll. Health insurance contribution split for employees hired after 11/1/2014 shall be 60/40. Also union members eligible for eyeglasses for two out of three years of the contract.

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action on Article 12 in the amount of \$15,402, funded from Taxation, Motion Passed (10-1-0) (M. Trudell opposed) (11 voting)

M. Trudell spoke to his reasons being opposed was that the step system on the contracts allows for a raise every year and no one has ever missed a step.

J. Johnson spoke to 15 steps being on the Clerical and Library Contracts, DPW has 7 steps. He will provide the Committee with the information on how many of the employees are on the higher step.

Article 14 – Library

Library – Changes to the contract were that the Library will be considered closed on July 3 of each year. Holiday pay will be given for employees scheduled to work that day. Pay scale adjustment to reflect a 2% cost of living adjustment. FY2016 and 2017, cost of living adjustments will be 2 1/2 % on July 1, 2015 and 2 3/4 on July 1, 2016. salary and wage adjustments for FY2015 shall commence on December 1, 2014, retroactive pay between July 1, 2014 and December 1, 2014. All employees required to go to paperless payroll. Insurance split of 60/40. Library Director looking to changes for non-union personnel.

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action on Article 14 in the amount of \$4971 from Taxation, Motion Passed (10-1-0) (M. Trudell opposed) (11 voting)

Committee requested from J. Johnson copies of the contracts in its entirety.

Board of Selectmen will be looking into changes for non-union personnel on the split for insurance. This will also have an affect on school personnel. Town will be investigating different insurance carriers.

Article 13 – Police

J. Johnson reported that he has met with police negotiator and they will leave the options open as negotiations are continuing. He recommends the Finance Committee's vote at this time be Recommendation at Town Meeting.

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for Recommendation at Town Meeting on Article 13, Motion Passed (11-0-0) (11 voting)

Article 5 – Prior Year's Unpaid Bills

There are no known outstanding bills.

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for No Action on Article 5, Motion Passed (11-0-0) (11 voting)

October 2, 2014 Meeting

Finance Committee will not be meeting on Thursday, October 2, 2014 and it was suggested that the members attend the Planning Board meeting on this date for the public hearing on the Zoning Articles 24-29. Planning Board will be attending our October 6, 2014 for an update on the zoning articles and request for funding for a consultant.

Articles 28 and 29 – Solar Photovoltaic Overlay District (SPOD)

Consultants will attend the Finance Committee meeting on October 9, 2014 to go over their articles. J. Johnson was asked to provide the committee with a copy of the previous Pilot agreement on SPOD.

Planning Board Zoning By-law Changes

Finance Committee will meet with the Planning Board on October 6, 2014 to go over these articles, there will not be time for the Committee to have their recommendations printed on these articles in the booklet. Committee will meet on the SPOD articles on October 9, 2014.

Article 24 – Dimension Regulations

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for Recommendation at Town Meeting, Motion Passed, (11-0-0) (11 voting) Unanimous

Article 25 – Setbacks

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for Recommendation at Town Meeting, Motion Passed, (11-0-0) (11 voting) Unanimous

Article 26 – Multi-Family

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for Recommendation at Town Meeting, Motion Passed, (11-0-0) (11 voting) Unanimous

Article 27 – Use Regulations

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for Recommendation at Town Meeting, Motion Passed, (11-0-0) (11 voting) Unanimous

Article 28 – Baker Hughes SPOD

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for Recommendation at Town Meeting, Motion Passed, (11-0-0) (11 voting) Unanimous

Article 29 – Bird (SPOD)

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for Recommendation at Town Meeting, Motion Passed, (11-0-0) (11 voting) Unanimous

Article 33 – Lexington Drive

Words “To its end” were left out of the printed warrant. This has been reviewed by Town Counsel and it is considered housekeeping and does not enlarge the scope of the article. Finance Committee had previously voted 12-0-0 on this article.

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for Reconsideration of Article 33, Motion Passed (11-0-0) (11 voting)

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action on Article 33 with the additional wording, to be funded in the amount of \$454 from Free Cash, Motion Passed (11-0-0) (11 voting)

Corrected Motion – That the Town accept Lexington Drive from its beginning at STA 0+80.12 **to its end** at 20+87.20+/-, including any easements and utilities appurtenant thereto, and to appropriate the sum of \$454 for recording of documents at the Registry of Deeds.

Minority Opinions Discussion

Discussion ensued that if a member voted against an article, it would be helpful for everyone to understand the reasoning for the vote that maybe something that wasn't considered would be helpful in the deliberations. Member could be asked and they have the right to share their thoughts, also they could be given the opportunity to provide a minority report. Comments from the member should be passed along to the Chairman for his information to be presented at Town Meeting when body inquires about opposing vote.

M. Iwanowicz spoke to explaining his vote on Article 17 to the Chairman, he will forward a copy of this e-mail to the rest of the Finance Committee.

Adjourn:

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson to adjourn at 8:25 p.m, Motion Passed (11-0-0) (11 voting)

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Respectfully submitted,

Clare P. Abril
Clerk