

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes **Thursday, April 27, 2023**

Present: (Z – zoom)

Finance Committee

Roll Call 12 in attendance

Dennis Crowley (Chair)

Douglas Shea (Vice Chair)

Brian Bain

Kathleen Foley Greulich

Audrey Grace

Steve Hendricks

Jean Kenney

Leigh Ann Luetzen

Adrienne Rogers

Mark Trudell

Lisa Van der Linden

Scott Wassel

Absent: Josette Burke, Lawrence Pitman, Mark Sullivan

Additional attendees:

Jim Johnson, Patrick Shield, Lisa Sinkus, Jennifer Karnakis

Meeting minutes of recorded meetings include time stamps from the video for viewing actual content.

The video can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=azuL1GWijpg>

Approval of minutes is based off of the printed word and not the video

The meeting was called to order by Dennis Crowley at 7:00pm.

Finance Committee Public Hearing

(0:30) Motion by Mark Trudell and seconded by Douglas Shea to open the Public Hearing.

The motion passed 12-0-0.

Precinct 3 RTM and Chair of the Walpole Historical Commission Jennifer Karnakis asked if the Massachusetts Historical Commission has been notified about Article 18 and the potential for the Old Town Hall to be sold.

Jim Johnson stated that the Massachusetts Historical Commission participated in the 2019 study, and the information has been made public about this article for months. He has not heard any complaints from the Massachusetts Historical Commission regarding this article.

Jennifer Karnakis stated that the article has not been made public enough to the Walpole community. Dennis Crowley stated that the Finance Committee unanimously voted favorable action on this article, not necessarily because they are all in favor of selling it, but rather because they are in favor of bringing the issue to Town meeting for a discussion.

Jim Johnson stated that the Town has done several professional studies over the years about the Old Town Hall, and they all come back recommending its sale. They've tried and failed to get grant funding to maintain the Old Town Hall, and upkeep is becoming increasingly expensive.

Mark Trudell asked if the Select Board would have to go back to Town Meeting for approval if the sale price exceeds a certain threshold. Jim Johnson stated that the authorization would be universal.

(10:27) Motion by Mark Trudell and seconded by Kathleen Foley Greulich to close the Public Hearing. The motion passed 12-0-0.

Jim Johnson stated that there would be a Finance Committee Meeting on Wednesday, May 3rd to vote for an authorization to allow budget transfers of up to \$10,000 after Town Meeting.

Approval of Meeting Minutes (12:51)

The Finance Committee decided to hold off on approving meeting minutes until the next meeting.

Adjournment (13:33)

Motion by Dennis Crowley and seconded by Kathleen Foley Greulich to adjourn. The motion passed 12-0-0.

The Finance Committee adjourned at 7:15pm.