

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes

September 13, 2018

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Monday, September 13, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Finance Committee Room, Town Hall with the following members present: M. Trudell, D. Shea, L. Van der Linden, A. Hamilton, M. Ahigian, A. Flowers, K. Greulich, D. Crowley, M. Sullivan, S. Lawson, E. Barmakian, and B. Bain. Members absent were J. Burke, R. Nottebart and R. Ardine. Also in attendance was Town Administrator J. Johnson, Finance Director M. Thompson, and Town Accountant J. Cuneo, Fire Chief T. Bailey.

7:10 p.m. – Quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by the Chairman M. Trudell.

October 17, 2018 Fall Annual Town Meeting

Appointments:

Article 19, Use of Jarvis Farm, Article 20, Abutter Notification Petitioners are K. Carroll and W. Carroll, Speaking to these articles was Petitioner W. Carroll.

Article 19 – Speaking to this article was W. Carroll, speaking for the Petitioner K. Carroll, they are proposing that residents be allowed to use for recreational purposes, Jarvis Pond, during the seasonal period that coincides with the summer pool schedule and will be limited to Saturdays, Sundays and Summer Holidays. (approximately 19 days) As a Representative Town Meeting Member, he voted to purchase the property and understood it was conservation land. It has been a summer camp for 40 years and always had swimming. Four lifeguards would be a requirement along with a security guard when in use. He has gone before Sewer and Water Commissioners and they felt that it was environmentally wrong to do this. He has not receive any information from the Commissioners. Town voted to spend 4.5 million on this property and he has many questions. This money is being paid out of the water rates and the Sewer and Water Commissioners have jurisdiction over it. Finance Committee explained that the reason the Town purchased the property was for water protection. He has also spoken to the Recreation Department.

Mr. Carrol questioned why this article would be before the Finance Committee and thought that only the Representative Town Meeting Members would be the ones voting. It was explained to Mr. Carroll that everything on the Warrant goes before Finance Committee and they make a recommendation and then it goes to the RTM for a vote.

Sewer and Water Commissioners are the custodians of the property, and if the article is approved, Town Administrator will have to come up with the funding and manpower.

Mr. Carroll spoke to this property should be open to the general public and has spoken to the seniors and they are in favor of it.

Finance Committee needs to make a decision on whether this is a good idea and needs input from Recreation, and Administrator on a funding source. If article goes forward funding would be included in the Recreation Budget in the Spring. Sewer and Water Commissioners have not taken a position on it as the caretakers of the property. They have to allow it. Estimated cost of \$14,000 to implement this.

Committee discussed that the Sewer and Water Commissioners did allow swimming for recreation programs and this is short money to do it. A number of steps would be needed to be put in place to go forward, showers, etc. A need has to be established and if there is enough public interest to have it open during this time period. Sewer and Water Commissioners need to be convinced that it is a good idea. The need to have another swimming facility has to be decided. Property was purchased for water protection. Town could possibly have a trial period to see if there is enough interest.

MOTION MADE by A. Flowers, Seconded by D. Crowley for Recommendation at Town Meeting, Motion Passed (12-0-0) (12 voting) Unanimous

Article 20 – Abutter Notification/Building Plans

Mr. Carroll, petitioner, spoke to this article. This came about due to the property at 234 Stone Street, three small houses were proposed to be on the property and the abutters were notified of the plans only once. Abutters didn't receive notice that the three small houses increased to three large homes, and were not notified of changes. Public input was lost. He wants under this article for the abutters to receive a second notice. When there is substantial changes to the plans. He feels that this is a problem with oversized lots.

Town Administrator spoke to this proposed article being about notification to abutters when the plan has substantially changed. Minor changes happen all the time and the abutters stop attending meetings and don't see the whole process through. This article is non-binding and it is a request and not a change in the By-law.

Committee spoke to what would trigger a second notice to abutters, and when to notify of changes. Committee needs more information. The article, as proposed, is vague. It needs to be cleaned up.

MOTION MADE by S. Lawson, Seconded by D. Crowley for No Action on Article 20, Motion Passed (11-0-1) (K. Greulich abstained) (12 voting)

Article 15 – Animal Control Oversight

Town Administrator has reviewed the proposed change with Town Counsel and has made the change in the recommendation: under the By-Laws, Chapter 5, Animal Control

Officer, Article I Powers and Duties: The Board of Selectmen shall appoint an Animal Control Officer, to perform such duties as directed by the Chief of Police, to enforce the Rules and bylaws concerning dogs and warm-blooded animals in the Town of Walpole and perform such other duties as directed by the Chief of Police. In the absence of the Animal Control Officer, the Police Department will act as the Animal Control Officer coordinating with the full time Animal Control Officer or such other Animal Control Officer(s) as the Town may from time to time employ, including Animal Control Officers from neighboring Towns The rest of the article, as proposed, will remain the same.

MOTION MADE by D. Crowley, Seconded by L. Van der Linden for Favorable Action on Article 15 as amended, Motion Passed (12-0-0) (12 voting) Unanimous

Article 5 – Stabilization Account.

Town Administrator is recommending \$300,000 from Free Cash be transferred into the Stabilization Account. This is the Town's rainy day fund. Funds can only be taken out of this account by a vote of Town Meeting. FY2018 Balance is \$3,935,392.

MOTION MADE by S. Lawson, Seconded by L. Van der Linden, Motion Passed (12-0-0) (12 voting) Unanimous

Article 6 – OPEB Account

Town Administrator is recommending \$200,000 from Free Cash and \$16,002.08 from an old Pension Trust Fund. Current OPEB Balance \$2,883,904.

Committee will be discussing OPEB Funding at a future date. OPEB is a health benefit liability.

MOTION MADE by S. Lawson, Seconded by K. Greulich for Favorable Action in the amount of \$216,002.08 and transfer \$200,000 from Free Cash, and \$16,002.08 from Pension Trust Fund #8291-357000, Motion Passed (12-0-0) (12 voting) Unanimous

Discussion

Town Administrator spoke to \$421,000 being in the Kendall Fund. This money has been used in prior years to update the Town's Master Plan. He has proposed to the Selectmen the hiring of a Community Planning Director and have the Town's zoning cleaned up. He feels that Community Planning is the direction to go. The last Town Planner that the Town had employed didn't work out.

DPW Director – Town Administrator is recommending Rick Mattson, Superintendent of Water and Sew for this position.

Hotel – Proposed new hotel located at the corner of Rte. 1 and Rte. 27 will be 55% in Walpole and 45% in Sharon, both towns will split services. Restaurant will be located in Walpole.

Minutes

MOTION MADE by D. Crowley, Seconded by A. Flowers for Favorable Action on September 6, 2018 Minutes, Motion Passed (10-0-2) (E. Barmakian, A. Hamilton abstained) (12 voting)

Adjourn:

MOTION MADE by A. Flowers, Seconded by D. Crowley to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m., Motion Passed (12-0-0) (12 voting) Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Clare P. Abril
Clerk