

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes

February 16, 2017

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Thursday, February 16, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Finance Committee Room, Town Hall with the following members present: D. Bruce, J. Burke, J. Vaillancourt, S. Lawson, E. Barmakian, R. Nottebart, M. Trudell, A. Healy, P. Stasiukevicius, T. Bowen, J. Leith and P. Hinton. Members missing were: J. Denneen, R. Mariani and K. Guyette. Also in attendance was Town Administrator J. Johnson, Finance Director M. Thompson, Town Accountant, J. Cuneo and Fire Chief T. Bailey.

7:00 p.m. – Quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by the Chairman D. Bruce.

Meetings

Chairman spoke to during discussions to be respectful of all members. Members can disagree and have difference of opinions.

Conflict of Interest Law Online Training Program

Chairman reminded members that are due to renew the Online Training Program. This is a requirement from the State.

May 1, 2017 Spring Annual Town Meeting

Articles 28, 29 – Kevin’s Way (Commerford Corner Subdivision)

Present was Town Engineer M. Walker. It was explained that this is a private way located off Summer Street, and went before the Planning Board under subdivision control, then released by the Planning Board. Consists of four homes. It was constructed as a private way and was not accepted by the Town as a public way. Town has to accept the easements and they have to be approved by Town Meeting. They have been recorded at the Registry of Deeds. This is for the public good.

Article 28 – Allows the Town the ability to enter over the easement portions of Lots 2, 3, and 4 and Kevin’s Way for maintenance purposes for the benefit of the general public should the HOA not fulfill their obligations of maintenance. (This includes the detention basin) (Maintenance is the obligation of the HOA and not the Town per the deed.)

Article 29 – Allows the Town the ability to enter the Traffic Sight easement portions of Lots 1,2, and 4 for purposes of trimming vegetation to a height of 2.5 feet for sight distance purposes. Should the HOA not fulfill their obligations (Traffic Sight easement) allows the Town the right but not the obligation to enter).

Committee had questions on whether these articles set a precedent. It was explained that this is normal, we accept the right but not the responsibility. Homeowners are responsible for maintenance and responsibility for catch basins, etc. Town will only exercise their rights if it affects the general public

The Town has never billed a HOA for maintenance charges.

MOTION MADE by T. Bowen, Seconded by R. Nottebart for Favorable Action on Article 28, Maintenance of Kevin’s Way, Motion Passed, (12-0-0) (12 voting) Unanimous

MOTION MADE by T. Bowen, Seconded by R. Nottebart for Favorable Action on Article 29, Commerford’s Corner Traffic Site Line.

Town Administrator

Town Administrator updated the Committee on various articles on the Town Meeting Warrant.

Article 24 – Matching Grants – Standard article, likely to be No Action.

MOTION MADE by T. Bowen, Seconded by R. Nottebart for No Action, Motion Passed (12-0-0) (12 voting) Unanimous

Article 30 – Zoning By-Law Amendments - Number of Buildings per Lot A. Residential, and increase in height dimensions. This article is being sponsored by the Planning Board, and they originally wanted it to be sponsored by the Selectmen. .

Article 25-Revolving Funds- This is a standard article. Parks and Recreation Funds have been combined into one fund and increased \$100,000. These funds are not part of the Recreation Budget.

MOTION MADE by M. Trudell, Seconded by J. Vaillancourt for Favorable Action on Article 25, Revolving Funds, Motion Passed (12-0-0) (12 voting) Unanimous

Recap of Articles

Article 1 – Committee Reports/Standard Article

Article 2 – Personnel Board By-Laws, **Article 3-** Personnel Board Salary Schedule, and **Article 4** Personnel Board Funding.

Article 5 – FY2017 Supplemental Budgets

Article 6 – FY2018 Budgets

Article 7 – Water Enterprise Fund

Article 8 – Sewer Enterprise Fund

Articles 9,10, 11, 12, 13, Municipal Contracts. There is a proposal for the Police Dispatchers to form a union. This is not included in this Town Meeting.

Municipal contract negotiators are handled by the Town Administrator, Assistant Town Administrator, Human Resource Administrator and Department Heads. When needed, they bring in outside counsel. If there is an impasse, they go to binding arbitration. Town Administrator spoke to some unions taken longer than others to settle.

Article 14 – Prior year’s unpaid bills – None are anticipated but Administration is recommending leaving the article open at this time.

Article 15 – Snow and Ice, Balance prior to the last storm was \$390,000, leaving a balance of \$250,000 in this budget.

Article 16 – Old Post Road Water Storage Tank – This has been up for discussion previously but never went forward. They are looking to obtain quotes on the costs of antennae’s on the various water tanks.

Article 17 – Water Construction Improvements – The replacement of old pipes at a cost of 1.1 million

Article 18 – Pilot Treatment Study for the removal of Dioxane from the Town’s water supply (\$500,000) .

Articles 19, 20, 21 and 22 – Capital Articles. Committee to meet with Capital on March 9, 2017.

Article 23 – Vehicle Maintenance Garage - Administration would like bids in hand in order to know the actual cost, estimated to be 1.5 million to 2. million. Administrator does not want to borrow funds, like to do from taxation, available funds, and any potential grants. He will be meeting with the architects on the project.

Article 26 – Walpole Media Cable Funds –Balance is approximately \$546,000. They will be meeting with the Committee.

Article 30 – Planning Board Amendment – Limits a principal building to one lot other than the Zoning Board by Special Permit may allow additional buildings. Planning Board will be holding hearings on this article.

Article 31 – 9 Timberline Drive/Private Petition, Attorney Paolosky representing the private petitioner. The purpose of the article is to release a 10 ft wide walking easement which the public cannot access, it provides no municipal benefit and will eliminate an unintended cloud on the petitioner's title. Conservation Commission voted 6-0-0 to recommend the BOS to extinguish the easement located at 9 Timberline Drive (Lot 4) because the easement is not connected to or hold a purpose for the Town's trail system. The trail easement was not included on the subdivision plan or within the subdivision decision by the Planning Board. This will allow the homeowner to obtain a clear title. This needs to be corrected.

Committee discussed that this is a citizen petition trying to remove a condition put on by another board (Conservation Commission). This should be reviewed by the Planning Board. Town Administrator will refer this to the Planning Board for their comments. Committee needs clarification.

Finance Committee Agenda

Chairman noted that any member wishing to put an item on an agenda, should speak to the Chairman first then forward the request to the secretary. If an action is to be taken, needs to be on the agenda.

Split for funding of the schools 66/34, needs to be on a future agenda. (March 6,2017) for discussion. There presently a gap in monies requested by the School Department in the amount of \$371,251 more than the Town Administrators' recommendation. The gap includes \$237,000 for reduced tuition for full day kindergarten. School Administration has been working with the Town Administrator on the budget.

Open Meeting Law

Chairman has been in discussion with the Board of Selectmen. They want all meetings recorded by the Cable. They direct the cable company. This is a requirement of the Open Meeting Laws to allow anyone to tape or broadcast its open sessions. All governmental bodies and all Town boards are required to comply with the provisions of this law. Town Counsels opinion is that Walpole Cable TV may tape the Finance Committee without the Committee's approval.

Committee members spoke to the meetings being televised, it is public business and the public is entitled to hear discussions. Board of Selectmen should be consistent in requiring that all boards be televised. Staffing of cable is an issue. Town Administrator will provide the committee with the legal opinion from Town Counsel.

Revenue

Revenue discussion will be held at March 2, 2017 meeting.

Facility Tours

Chairman asked the Committee if there was any interest in reinstating the tours of the various departments and building. Committee is scheduled to tour the present Vehicle Maintenance Garage on March 9, 2017 in conjunction with discussion on Article 23, new Vehicle Maintenance Garage. Town Administrator will clarify where the meeting will be held after this tour.

Senior Center Update

Friends group gave a check as a kick off for the fund raising. They are required to hold public hearing on Grant application. Project is going forward but to obtain the Grant is a longshot. Facebook page has been started, along with a Go Fund Site. Grant writing will be done in house. This is very complicated and involved. Our State Representatives have been reached out for help. At Town Meeting it was brought up that project cannot go forward until the Town obtains the Grant and does fundraising.

Minutes

MOTION MADE by J. Burke, Seconded by M. Trudell to approve the **September 22, 2016** Minutes, Motion Passed (12-0-0) (12 voting) Unanimous

MOTION MADE by S. Lawson, Seconded by J. Burke to approve the minutes of **October 6, 2016**, Motion Passed (11-0-1) (P. Hinton abstained) (12 voting)

MOTION MADE by S. Lawson, Seconded by J. Burke to approve the minutes of **October 13, 2016**, Motion Passed (8-0-4) (T. Bowen, P. Stasiukevicius, E. Barmakian and J. Vaillancourt abstained) (12 voting)

State Legislatures

Committee discussed that our legislatures only come to Town Meeting. They should attend a Finance Committee meeting. A message could be sent to the Moderator that they only be allowed to discuss important items. Committee could make a motion not to allow outside speakers.

Adjourn:

MOTION MADE by P. Stasiukevicius to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m., Motion Passed (12-0-0) (12 voting) Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Clare P. Abril
Clerk .