

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes

September 18, 2017

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Monday, September 18, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. Room #112, Town Hall with the following members present: J. Vaillancourt, P. Stasiukevicius, J. Burke, E. Barmakian, T. Bowen, M. Clow, A. Flowers, A. Hamilton, P. Hinton, L. Huempfer, S. Lawson, J. Leith, R. Mariani, R. Nottebart and M. Trudell. Also in attendance were Town Administrator J. Johnson and Fire Chief T. Bailey.

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

Chairman's Comments

Chairman spoke to a policy on voting procedures by the Committee. Committee generally follows a relaxed version of Roberts Rules and Orders. Finance Committee is run the same way as other committee meetings. A condensed document of how to make motions was passed out to the Committee.

Article 5 – Memorial Pond Dredging

Committee had a motion of Favorable Action on this article which failed by a 6-7-1 vote. The advice of Town Counsel was sought on the next step for the Committee in preparation for inclusion on the Finance Committee Book. A motion of No Action from the Committee was not put forth after this vote. Town Counsel suggested that the Committee's options would be to list the vote, recommend No Action, recommend Recommendation At Town Meeting, No Recommend Action, or list Favorable Action vote failed.

MOTION MADE by M. Trudell for motion to read Favorable Action Vote Failed (6-7-1) Motion Passed (15-0-0) (15 voting), Unanimous

Article 14 – Firefighters Contract

Town Administrator spoke to not having any additional information at this time, they are still in negotiations. A settled contract is required to be in the hands of the Town Meeting Members 10 days prior to a vote by Town Meeting. He doesn't see this happening and anticipates that the contract might be settled in the Spring. Present contract expired June 30, 2017. Money was set aside last Spring in anticipation of being settled and to fund the contract. All monies for the contract are retroactive.

MOTION MADE by M. Trudell, Seconded by J. Vaillancourt for Recommendation at Town Meeting, Motion Passed (15-0-0) (15 voting) Unanimous

Article 15 – Water Retained Earnings

Town Administrator spoke to transferring \$74,000 from the Water Enterprise Fund for an additional funding source for the FY2018 Water Department Operational Budget. Present balance in this account is approximately 1.6 million.

MOTION MADE by T. Bowen, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action on Article 15 to transfer \$74,000 from the Water Enterprise Fund to the FY2018 Water Department Operational Budget, Motion Passed (15-0-0) (15 voting) Unanimous

Articles 16 – 22 Zoning Articles

Planning Board will hold the public hearing on the zoning articles on Thursday, October 5, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Committee discussed in detail on how to proceed on these articles. A vote needs to be included in the Town Meeting booklet. Members felt that articles seem to be pretty straight forward as presented and Committee could vote on them tonight or could be open to obtaining more details and after the public hearing.

Article 16 – AQV Ten-Acre Projects

MOTION MADE by T. Bowen, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action on Article 16, Motion Passed (15-0-0) (15 voting) Unanimous

Article 17 – Recreational Marijuana Establishments

MOTION MADE by T. Bowen, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action on Article 17, Motion Passed (15-0-0) (15 voting) Unanimous

Article 18 – SPOD District

MOTION MADE by R. Nottebart, Seconded by M. Trudell for Favorable Action on Article 18, Motion Passed (15-0-0) (15 voting) Unanimous

Article 19 – Parking Regulations

MOTION MADE by M. Trudell, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action on Article 19, Motion Passed (15-0-0) (15 voting) Unanimous

Article 20 – Moratorium in CBD District

Concerns were expressed on this moratorium, Town needs affordable house. There needs to be a dialogue in the Town on where we are going on housing. Town has a lot of construction going on, i.e. hotels, 40B housing and housing in the CBD District. Town needs to see the impact on all this construction with utilities and school system.

MOTION MADE by R. Mariani, Seconded by A. Flowers, for Favorable Action on Article 20, Motion Passed (15-0-0) (15 voting) Unanimous

Article 21 – Clean-Up Language

MOTION MADE by M. Trudell, Seconded by Susan for Favorable Action on Article 21, Motion Passed (15-0-0) (15 voting) Unanimous

Article 22 – Height Limitations

MOTION MADE by R. Nottebart, Seconded by M. Trudell for Favorable Action on Article 22, Motion Passed (15-0-0) (15 voting) Unanimous

Article 23 – Chieftain Way Street Acceptance

MOTION MADE by R. Nottebart, Seconded by M. Trudell for Favorable Action on Article 23, Motion Passed (15-0-0) (15 voting) Unanimous

Article 24 – LaCivita Drive Street Acceptance

MOTION MADE by M. Trudell, Seconded by R. Nottebart for Favorable Action on Article 24, Motion Passed (15-0-0) (15 voting) Unanimous

Article 25 – O’Brien Sewer Easement

O’Brien Sewer Easement – This easement has been abandoned and is no longer necessary. Town has to release the easement.

MOTION MADE by R. Nottebart, Seconded by M. Trudell for Favorable Action on Article 25, Motion Passed (15-0-0) (15 voting) Unanimous

Article 26 – Eastover Road Easement

Concerns were expressed that this has been a controversial project for years. Town Administrator spoke to this being on the Warrant at the Board of Selectmen’s request. Allows fire and trash trucks access to pass over the easement premises. This is similar to the Burns Avenue project and is a zoning issue.

MOTION MADE by R. Nottebart, Seconded by J. Leith for Favorable Action on Article 26, Motion Passed (14-1-0) (E. Barmakian opposed) (15 voting)

Article 29 – Zoning By-Law Amendment

This is a private petition and petitioner is scheduled to meet with the Committee on September 25, 2017.

MOTION MADE by M. Trudell, Seconded by S. Lawson for Recommendation at Town Meeting, Motion Passed (15-0-0) (15 voting)

Article 7 – OPEB Funding

\$100,000 being requested for this article to be funded from Free Cash to supplement the OPEB Trust Fund.

MOTION MADE by S. Lawson, Seconded by L. Huempfer for Favorable Action on Article 7 for \$100,000 from Free Cash, Motion Passed (13-2-0) (R. Mariani, and J. Leith opposed) (15 voting) J. Leith would like to see a higher number for this article.

Article 28 – Resolution/Information on Public Buildings

MOTION MADE by M. Trudell, Seconded by S. Lawson for Recommendation at Town Meeting, Motion Passed (15-0-0) (15 voting) Unanimous

This is a private petition and petitioner is scheduled to meet with the Committee on September 25, 2017.

Article 2 – Budget Adjustments

Fire Chief Bailey and Town Administrator spoke to the Town receiving a Safety and Survival Grant in the amount of \$101,818 through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. Federal portion of the Grant is \$92,562 and the Town's Share is \$9,256. Town has 30 days to accept the grant. Chief will provide further information to the Committee at their next meeting. (September 25, 2017)

Town Administrator would like to modify the Fire Department Budget under Article 2 to allow for the Town's share of the Grant.

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MOTION MADE by S. Lawson, Seconded by J. Burke for Favorable Action on the September 11, 2017 Minutes, Motion Passed (15-0-0) (15 voting) Unanimous

Adjourn:

MOTION MADE by S. Lawson, Seconded by M. Trudell to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m., Motion Passed (15-0-0) (15 voting)

Respectfully submitted,

Clare P. Abril
Clerk