

FINANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

September 25, 2017

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Monday, September 25, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present. P. Stasiukevicius, J. Burke, R. Mariani, L. Huempfer, S. Lawson, T. Bowen, J. Leith, M. Trudell, A. Flowers, R. Nottebart and E. Barmakian. 7:10 p.m. J. Vaillancourt. Members absent were: P. Hinton, A. Hamilton and M. Clow. Also in attendance was Fire Chief T. Bailey.

7:00 p.m. – Quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by the Acting Chairman P. Stasiukevicius.

October 16 2017 Fall Town Meeting

Article 28 – Resolution

Speaking to this article was A. Grace and P. Czachorowski of the Peace and Justice Group.

It was explained that this resolution is in response to events in Charlottesville, Virginia and wanted it noted that neo-Nazi and white nationalist organizations are not welcomed in the Town of Walpole and will not be tolerated. Other cities and towns have passed similar resolutions along with the Governor. Language for this article was obtained from other communities. They spoke to feeling that these groups remain a serious threat to the value of the residents of Walpole, and are an irreconcilable conflict with foundational principles of liberty and justice for all. People want to come to a Town that welcomes everyone. This Resolution allows the Town to make a statement. They spoke to it being important for people to speak out. This Resolution adds the Town's voice to other cities and towns and other organizations in speaking out against hate groups. We don't have acceptance of hatefulness in our society. Passage of this Resolution will show that Town Meeting will be making a statement. Community has an obligation to speak out. Finance Committee is an advisory board for all subjects and a Favorable Action vote is important to Town Meeting. This is good for business and people of Walpole. Copy of the resolution will be posted in a public space in all Town owned buildings and on the Town's website. Walpole will be known as a Town that spoke out and is pro-active.

Some Committee members spoke to this being the right thing to do to condemn hateful groups and messages. It is beneficial to the Town to send this message. Everyone should be treated nicely, but questioned why it is necessary to have this before the local level. The Resolution might provide a negative reaction from certain groups and outside people could target the Town. If a hate group came to Town for a rally, Town should be prepared. It is better to have control than not have a statement. Some members spoke to

being opposed to passage of too many Resolutions. Community needs support of the legislative body. Flag is still an issue at the high school. This is a different time that we live in. Members spoke to respect should start at the home. With passage of this, are we inviting bad people to the Town. It is important for the Town to be proactive, and be on record that the Community opposes hatefulness and will not be tolerated.

7:10 p.m. – J. Vaillancourt resumed the chairing of the meeting.

MOTION MADE by S. Lawson, Seconded by L. Huempfner for Favorable Action. Motion Withdrawn.

MOTION MADE by S. Lawson, Seconded by T. Bowen for Reconsiderations of Article 28, Motion Passed (12-0-0) (12 voting) Unanimous

MOTION MADE by A. Flowers, Seconded by L. Huempfner for Favorable Action on Article 28, Motion Passed (9-1-2) (T. Bowen opposed, R. Mariani and J. Vaillancourt abstained) (12 voting)

Article 29 – Zoning By-laws

Petitioner L. Barrows spoke to this article. She is requesting that Section 6-C-4-A and Section 6-C-4-B be removed in its entirety from the Walpole Zoning Bylaws.

She explained that she lives in East Walpole and became aware of the issues of Section 6-C-4-A and Section 6-C-4-B due of a proposed development behind her home. This development is in the process of going through Zoning, Planning and Conservation Boards. The passage of this article will not have any effect on this development. She will not benefit from this passing, she feels it is the right thing to do. East Walpole is a General Residence District.

In General Residence District you can only build through a Special Permit on multiple buildings on one lot. This would not be allowed in the Residence A and Residence B District. She believes that this opens a flood gate of similar projects passing. The interpretation of this Zoning By-Law has had different views by different building inspectors. Issue is with interpretation.

Article was passed last year at Town Meeting but is only a band aid approach to the problem. She feels that the passage of this article is not taking anyone's rights away and warrants further discussion. How does this affect the big projects. Town Counsel needs to look this over. This makes the applicant go through proper channels. It was questioned whether passage of this article create more developments.

Committee questioned whether there is a great demand for multiple buildings on a single lot. Zoning Board needs guidance. By-law sends a mixed message presently.

Committee Members were urged to attend the Planning Board Public Hearing on October 5, 2017 at which time the Committee will have more information and then can reconsider the article.

Article 2 – FY2018 Budget Adjustments

MOTION MADE by M. Trudell, Seconded by S. Lawson for Reconsideration of Article 2, Motion Passed, (12-0-0) (12 voting) (Unanimous)

Chief Bailey spoke to his memo dated September 19, 2017 re: Assistance to Firefighters Grant. Town has been awarded a Safety and Survival Grant in the amount of \$101,818. Federal portion is \$92,562 and the Town's share is \$9,256. He has 30 days to accept the Grant. Deputy Chief Paul Barry wrote the Grant and should be given credit for obtaining it.

Finance Committee had previously approved the amount of \$54,000 for various budget adjustments under this article.

MOTION MADE by M. Trudell, Seconded by P. Stasiukevicius for Favorable Action on Article 2 and to amend previous vote: Elections Salary - #01163001-512100, (\$27,000), Elections Expense #01163002-5299 (\$5,000), Board of Health Salaries #01510001-510300 (\$7,850), Board of Health Expense #01510002-521900 (\$4,150), Fire Department Expense #01220002-583005 (\$10,000), and Safety & Survival Grant 23923003-511000 (\$9,300), to be funded in the amount of \$44,000 from Taxation and \$19,300 from the Ambulance Account, Motion Passed (12-0-0) (12 voting) Unanimous

Minutes

MOTION MADE by M. Trudell, Seconded by T. Bowen to approve the August 31, 2017 minutes, Motion Passed (10-0-2) (S. Lawson, R. Mariani abstained) (10 voting)

Adjourn:

MOTION MADE by P. Stasiukevicius, Seconded by M. Trudell to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m., Motion Passed (12-0-0) (12 voting) Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Clare P. Abril
Clerk