

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

### Minutes

May 2, 2013

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Thursday, May 2, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. in the Finance Committee Room, Town Hall with the following members present: L. Pitman, J. Burke, D. DiCenso, J. Denneen, C. Lane, M. Kent, S. Ahmed, S. Lawson, M. Iwanowicz, P. Hinton, D. Crowley, 7:35 p.m. D. Bruce, T. Williams. Absent were: J. McDermott, and J. Lowre. Also in attendance was Town Administrator M. Boynton, Assistant Town Administrator J. Johnson, Town Accountant J. Cuneo, Fire Chief T. Bailey, Police C. R. Stillman, Superintendent of Buildings D. Anderson, and DPW Director R. O'Brien.

7:30 p.m. Quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by the Chairman L. Pitman.

#### **Announcements:**

Chairman read into the record that the Knobel Family has scheduled an informal gathering for friends of Ralph Knobel on Saturday, May 11, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. at Adams Farm.

#### **May 6, 2013 Spring Annual Town Meeting**

##### **Article 5 – FY2013 Budget Adjustments**

Finance Committee had previously voted the amount of \$121,008 for various budget adjustments. This article has been adjusted to \$117,358. Police Department is now requesting additional monies for salaries, due to the department having a number of vacancies and it taking longer than expected to fill these vacancies, thus requiring overtime. In addition there is one officer out since July 3, 2012 on sick time and it requires the department to cover his shift with overtime. Police originally requested \$24,747 additional for salaries, they are now requesting \$48,000. Expenses have been adjusted from \$7,903 to \$6,000. The original request for additional monies for Unemployment in the amount \$25,000 is no longer being requested. Administration feels there is sufficient monies in this budget.

**MOTION MADE** by S. Lawson, Seconded by J. Denneen for Reconsideration of Article 5, Motion Passed (11-0-0) (11 voting) Unanimous

**MOTION MADE** by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action on Article 5, in the amount of \$117,358, (\$16,284 Elections & Registrars Salaries, \$12,074 for Elections & Registrars' Expenses, \$48,000 for Police Department Salaries, \$6,000 for Police Department Expenses and \$35,000 for Fire Department Salaries to be transferred

in the amount of \$117,358 from Employee Fringe Benefits), Motion Passed (11-0-0) (11 voting) Unanimous

7:35 p.m. – Committee Members D. Bruce, T. Williams

### **Article 35 – Main Street Zoning Map Changes**

Town Administrator spoke to a technical change in the motion from what was originally voted. At the Planning Board public hearing on March 7, it was noted that an error with the Zoning Map occurred because when the PSRC District for the Cobbs Pond Areas was created, it only included Town-owned parcels. Parcel was split zoned (GR and RB) and was not included in the warrant article in 1994. Town Counsel Ilana Quirk has provided a revised motion. This provides clarity from what was originally voted, parcel is still in the business zone.

**MOTION MADE** by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for Reconsideration of Article 35, Motion Passed (13-0-0) (13 voting) Unanimous .

**MOTION MADE** by J. Denneen, Seconded by D. Crowley for Favorable Action on Article 35 on the new language provided by Town Counsel, Motion Passed (13-0-0) (13 voting) Unanimous

### **Tri-County Budget**

Budget has been approved based on the House Ways and Means Budget and is subject to change pending final approval by the Legislature and signed by the Governor. Walpole's assessment is \$806,978. Town Administrator is not suggesting any changes at this time due to finalization of the State numbers. Any adjustments will be handled at the Fall Town Meeting. FinCom had voted the amount of \$825,000.

### **Town Meeting Room Assignments**

Room #2129 has been reserved for the Finance Committee, if needed, for meetings prior to Town Meeting on May 6 and May 8, 2013.

### **Minutes**

#### **February 21, 2013**

**MOTION MADE** by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson to approved the Executive Session Minutes of February 21, 2013 and not release them, Motion Passed (11-0-2) (P. Hinton and D. Crowley abstained) (13 voting)

#### **February 25, 2013**

**MOTION MADE** by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson to approve the Minutes of February 25, 2013, Motion Passed (12-0-1) (S. Ahmed abstained) (13 voting)

**March 18, 2013**

**MOTION MADE** by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson to approve the Minutes of March 18, 2013, Motion Passed (12-0-1) (D. Crowley abstained) (13 voting)

**March 25, 2013**

**MOTION MADE** by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson to approve the Minutes of March 25, 2013, Motion Passed (12-0-1) (D. Bruce abstained) (13 voting)

**March 28, 2013**

**MOTION MADE** by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson to approve the Minutes of March 28, 2013, Motion Passed (12-0-1) (P. Hinton abstained) (13 voting)

**April 4, 2013**

**MOTION MADE** by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson to approve the Minutes of April 4, 2013, Motion Passed (12-0-1) (P. Hinton abstained) (13 voting)

**Auditor's Report**

Auditor's Report is available for any Finance Committee Members that have not picked up their copy in the Town Accountant's Office. Town Administrator spoke to looking into the way capital is being done, and bringing munis up to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. M. Donovan and J. Cuneo working on this. They are looking into also streamlining the chart of accounts.

**Town Administrator**

Reserves –Town hasn't receive the \$750,000 Prison Mitigation Funds. If all capital requests go forward, we will have money, but there won't be any surplus from snow and ice. Town has exceeded the local receipts number, exceeding meals and excise numbers by at least \$50,000, Free Cash number will hopefully be \$300,000 next year, with expectation to have 1.7 million available for capital next year. Town Administrator to provide the Committee with actual breakdown of cash reserves. He would like to see 5% in reserves. There should be money available from the Debt Budget.

Financial Director – Town has been unsuccessful in hiring someone for this position, they are going to do an additional search, using the Mass. Municipal Website, ICMA Website and doing more with word of mouth.

Actuarial Team – OPEB liability of 44 -84 million GASBY age group extended due to people living longer. The pay as you go cost of \$2,000,000 and there is no likelihood that a government agency will fully fund it. It is a requirement under 32B to provide this, and Town has no ability to make changes. Town Administrator feels that 60 – 80 million in a trust fund is enough to cover the costs.

**8:00 pm. – Finance Committee Public Hearing**

**MOTION MADE** by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson to open the Finance Committee Public Hearing on the May 6, 2013 Spring Annual Town Meeting, Motion Passed (13-0-0) (13 voting) Unanimous

Chairman opened the meeting for comments on Articles 2 through 10.

J. Moraski – had questions on the camera security systems. FinCom had expressed concerns with big brother, if not doing anything wrong, there should be nothing to worry about. Cameras are beneficial if something occurs, can go back to film and recreate what happen. They are to be installed inside and outside the buildings. Two locations in the Town Hall, Town Clerk and Collector's Office. Cameras at the schools help the Police Department address issues. Cameras will also be installed at the exterior of the Treatment Plant. Sewer and Water Commissioners did not come to the Finance Committee to speak to this issue. Additional questions on removing the vehicle out of Article 7 and putting in Article 8, this is needed due to the pump stations needing to be inspected every day. It is unknown where the monies for the furniture at the Water Treatment Plan came from. Finance Committee is not aware of any funding requests for furniture. Sewer and Water Commissioners do not come before they Committee when requested. FinCom has the ability to subpoena anyone to appear before them.

C. Snuffer had questions on the \$100,000 being requested to open the grit chamber and if a cost analysis had been done on this. FinCom hasn't received any information on this. He had questions on it not making any money why are we opening it. If it a losing proposition, Town should sell it and put in private hands. Need to know the checks and balances on this operation. It not should not be decide literally to lose money.

J. Moraski spoke to the septage haulers going to Canton. They don't want to come to Walpole and wait an hour for an attendant. This might change with Canton facility closing Sewer and Water Commissioners feel that it is costly for a person to operate the facility (\$40,000) and want a camera at the Robbins Road facility to allow the haulers to be able to dump and be on camera themselves without paying a person to maintain it. They might have discussed this with the MWRA and would like the same privilege that Canton has. This information needs to be available at Town Meeting. FinCom Members spoke to it being imperative to have a person there as to the need to know what is being dumped.

DPW Director R. O'Brien spoke to the MWRA shutting down the Canton facility. Walpole may or may not make money. Price of dumping cannot be raised too high, it is a free market system, complicated issue. Frustration with facility not being open, it was built under a consent order. Sewer and Water Commissioners felt it would be a good thing for the Town and the environment as a whole.

C. Lane spoke to the Sewer Commissioners needing to have the last word, they are elected. Town doesn't take the money seriously on the costs.

S. Lawson spoke to the amount of interesting points being raised, like to see a discussion at Town Meeting. Situation is very unsatisfactory. It is good to have an open discussion at Town Meeting. Town needs to know what the Sewer and Water Commissioners are doing. Money comes from the rate payers.

D. Bruce spoke to the need to being more conservative on the sewer funds, money is not being spent wisely.

Sewer and Water Commissioners would like to see how the Town Hall breaks down the indirect costs.

8:50 p.m. – Committee Member M. Kent left the meeting

Chairman opened discussion on Articles 11 – 20 for comments

C. Snuffer spoke to the unfunded liabilities and why cities and towns file for bankruptcy. Towns cannot pay these outstanding financial liabilities. He expressed concerns on the budget and revolving funds i.e. recreation and whether costs include the pools and costs associated with running the pools. If they pools are not part of this, why is the water costs in another budget. If programs are offered, they should not lose money. Chairman Pitman spoke to the need to maintain and fix the pools, it cannot be ignored. FinCom has toured the buildings and to see what needs to be done, trying to be more proactive. Town needs to fix and maintain what we have.

J. Moraski had questions on Article 13 and the expectations of using grant monies. Town Administrator spoke to this only being borrowing authorization, pending actual filing of the grant. He does not know whether this will be back at the Fall Town Meeting, but need to go forward with the grant process. If this is not needed action would be rescinded.

Chairman opened discussion on Articles 21 – 30.

Article 23 – questions on the projected costs of doing these fields. Town Administrator is looking at different options on building the fields. Need to obtain the fields first.

Article 24 – Concerns expressed on why we are doing this after 20 years. Original agreement was that we would take it over. The entire roadway was built this past year.

Chairman opened discussion on Articles 31-38

Attorney Chaperlain, representing East Walpole Deli (Article 34) requested support for this article. He would like it to go to the State Legislature for the beer and wine package store license for this establishment. The closest liquor store to this establishment is off of Route 1. This is an opportunity to bring a beer and wine license to this area. Selectmen have suggested bringing forward a request for two more licenses. Package Store license holders against it, he feels it is additional tax revenue to the Town.

D. Bruce spoke to the article being split, a substitute motion can be offered. Selectmen want to go to the Legislature with one article. Guidelines on liquor quotas are from the State.

S. Lawson spoke to the article being muddled due to the Selectmen including their request for two additional All Alcoholic Common Victualler's Licenses. This should be debated at Town Meeting.

C. Snuffer spoke to the article being started with a citizens petition with 10 signatures, evolved into the Selectmen wishing to expand for the two additional licenses, creating a new article. Selectmen did not adhere to the original concept of the original petition.

J. Moraski on Article 35 on rezoning of 1 ½ acres on Main St. for a strip mall. Town Administrator spoke to this being done at the request of the property owners and is better for tax base. Town is also looking into having better access to Cobb's Pond. Plans are for a strip mall. C. Lane spoke to it doesn't matter with plans, the final outcome could be something different, only dealing with potential.

C. Snuffer spoke to the Council on Aging Budget. Expenses are up \$20,000, it was explained that was due to the money being take out of salaries and being put in expenses, allowing for additional funds to work on training and offer more programs. Money became available with the hiring of a new director at a lower rate than previous director. Questions came up on the returning of grant monies to the State. It was explained by the Town Administrators that this was an accounting issue. Funds were not spent or wasted.

**MOTION MADE** by J. Denneen, Seconded by D. Crowley to close the Finance Committee Public Hearing at 9:45 p.m., Motion Passed (12-0-0) (12 voting) Unanimous

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**Adjourn:**

**MOTION MADE** by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m, Motion Passed (12-0-0) (12 voting) Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Clare P. Abril  
Clerk