

Finance Committee Minutes
Town of Bellingham – Municipal Center
Monday, April 9, 2007

1. Present: Toni Picariello, Raymond Szczepan, Henri Masson, Gary Maynard, Joseph Collamati, Roland Lavallee, Carol Dill
2. Absent: N/A
3. Meeting called to order: 7:15 p.m.

4. **ARTICLE 17 – ZONING BY-LAW REVISION/AS-BUILT REQUIREMENTS (w/DPW)**

Stacey Wetstein, Town Planner appeared. No one from the Planning Board attended.

This article pertains to site developments. Originally developers are supposed to submit “as built” plans at certain stages of development. The Building Inspector reviews the plans so he can sign-off on them. The Building Inspector has not been doing this. This by-law would shift the responsibility from the Building Inspector to the DPW. The DPW has inspectors. The developer would submit their plans to the DPW. They are hoping to have monthly meetings with the developer and all departments involved.

Roland Lavallee/Henri Masson motion to recommend this article. VOTE: 7/0.

ARTICLE 16 – ZONING BY-LAW REVISION/PULASKI BLVD. MIXED USE OVERLAY – (Planning Board)

Joseph Collamati recused himself as he owns property in the area.

This article has been advertised in the newspapers and at Town Hall. Abutters do not need to be notified on zoning changes. The Planning Board holds hearings. The proposed zoning change will affect Pulaski Blvd. from the Woonsocket line to around Arpin Travel.

The highlights – mixed use of housing and retail (business & commercial). Judy Barratt, consultant, wrote this article and was paid through a grant.

Roland Lavallee asked about the trees and set-back – Ms. Wetstein will find the section.

Property owners will not lose anything they have now.

Town Counsel, Lee Ambler was a non-voting member of the committee that studied this article.¹

Roland Lavallee asked

1. How many developers were standing in line to implement this by-law? Answer: None.
2. Have they spoken to developers regarding this article? Answer: They have seen nothing new in proposed development.

Raymond Szczepan questioned the traffic that would be created. Answer: the safety officer checked the traffic situation and thought the traffic would slow down.

This article came up at the October 11, 2006 Special Town Meeting and was passed over by the Planning Board.

Roland Lavallee/Henri Masson motion to recommend this article. VOTE: 4/0/2 (Raymond Szczepan and Toni Picariello abstained)

5. **ARTICLE 1, ACCOUNT 302 – Blackstone Valley Tech. School**

Michael Fitzpatrick, Superintendent and Joe Hall, School Committee member for Bellingham appeared. Amount requested \$725,766.

They are hoping to reduce the additional assessment over 3 years. There are 3 students in the cosmetology program, which saves sending them out of the system. There is an 8% increase in Students and there is a longer school year.

The teachers' contract ends in 2008. The health insurance is 85/15 and hoping to be lower contribution during negotiations.

Joseph Collamati/Raymond Szczepan motion to recommend Blackstone Valley Tech. School's budget for \$725,766. VOTE: 7/0.

6. **ARTICLE 9 – AMEND ARTICLE 1 - CFO**

Marilyn Mathieu appeared.

Account	Department	Comments	Amount
132. Reserve Fund	Expenses	Replenish account because of all the transfers for the OJI payments	\$25,000.00
137. Assessors	Appointed/Elected Salaries	Payment to the board member. The stipend had not been paid in	\$600.00

¹ FinCom received an email from Town Counsel commenting on "draft" minutes, see below:
"I noted that your comments were that I was on the Committee that sponsored Article 16. Just be[sic] be clear, I was a non voting member, however am not in favor of same on issues of density and failure of equalized treatment of property owners within the district. 5 larger property owners have benefits of right that smaller property owners do not have."

		the past because the board member was also an employee of the Town.	
137. Assessors	Salaries	There is an employee in the department who is sick and they will need part-time help for 6-8 weeks.	\$2,000.00
189. Municipal Buildings	Expenses	This is to cover gas and oil.	\$26,000.00
190. OJI	§111F payments	There are still two employees out of work.	\$35,000.00
541. Veterans	Expenses	3 veterans are in the program. The program provides monetary assistance which is 75% reimbursed by the state.	\$4,000.00
			\$92,600.00

The FinCom will act on this Article on 4/23/2007.

7. **ARTICLE 27 – UNPAID BILLS – Finance Committee**

The following are unpaid bills.

Department	Pay to:	Amount	Comment	Funding
ZBA	Deutsch/Williams	\$851.00	The bill was submitted late by the vender and this was for 40B project).	Free Cash
Sewer Department	Woonsocket Wastewater Treatment	\$3,372.22	Bill was submitted late.	Sewer Surplus
Police Department	Walter Armstrong	\$35.00	He was underpaid.	Free Cash
		\$4,258.22		

Joseph Collamati/Henri Masson motion to recommend \$4,258.22. Funding: as listed above. VOTE: 6/0

ARTICLE 1 – Mileage Rate

Gary Maynard recused himself because of a family member being employed by the Town.

Raymond Szczepan/Carol Dill motion to recommend \$0.40 per mile as travel reimbursement. VOTE: 6/0.

ARTICLE 1 – Vote on Remainder of Accounts

Town Clerk budget – the 5% salary increase is because the assistant works 38 hours per week for 10 weeks while the Town Clerk is on vacation. This is paid as straight time. Next year the extra amount will be a separate line item.

Municipal Building Maintenance budget was questioned. Marilyn Mathieu will get a break down of building supplies.

The FinCom will vote on the following accounts at the April 23, 2007 meeting.

- 300 – School Department
- 303 – School Transportation
- 421 – Highway Administration
- 422 – Highway Construction/Maintenance
- 425 – Highway Maintenance

Raymond Szczepan/Roland Lavallee motion to recommend the budget figures as listed to the attached Article 1.

Funding will be voted on at the April 23, 2007 meeting.

ARTICLE 11 – REVOLVING FUNDS – Vote on Remainder

Joseph Collamati/Henri Masson motion to recommend the following revolving funds as listed below: VOTE: 7/0

Department	Amount not-to-exceed	Purpose	Vote:
Parks Commission	\$20,000	Swim Program	To “Maintain”
DPW	\$2,000	Compost Bins	To “Maintain”
DPW	\$7,500	Open Cemetery Graves	To “Maintain”
Town Common Trustees	\$25,000	Bank of America Lease	To “Increase”
Commission on Disability	\$10,000	Gifts/Grants/Fees	To “Maintain”

ARTICLE 1 – Breakdown of Funding

The FinCom will discuss this at the April 23rd meeting.

8. **GENERAL DISCUSSION**

- A. Meet with Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator and CFO on Monday, April 30, 2007??

This meeting will be sponsored by the Board of Selectmen.

C. Accept March 19, March 26 and April 2nd minutes.

Joseph Collamati/Henri Masson motion to accept the minutes of March 19, 2007 with corrections. VOTE: 5/0/2 (Raymond Szczepan and Carol Dill were not at the meeting)

Roland Lavallee/Henri Masson motion to accept the minutes of March 26, 2007 with corrections. VOTE: 6/0/1 (Carol Dill was not at the meeting).

Raymond Szczepan/Roland Lavallee motion to accept the minutes of April 2, 2007 with corrections. VOTE: 7/0

Adjourned: ***Joseph Collamati/Roland Lavallee motion to adjourn: VOTE: 7/0. 8:20 p.m.***

(Accepted 6/25/2007)