



# TOWN OF DARTMOUTH MASSACHUSETTS

---

**Finance Committee**  
400 Slocum Road  
Dartmouth, MA 02747  
Phone (508) 910-1802  
Fax (508) 910-1885  
*cabrantes@town.dartmouth.ma.us*

---

**Peter Friedman**, Chairman  
**Greg Lynam**, Vice-Chairman

September 6, 2007

Pursuant to a call to order and notice duly given in the manner required by law and the By-laws of the Town of Dartmouth, a meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Thursday, September 6, 2007 at 7:03 P.M. at the Town Hall Room 315.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Greg Lynam, Peter Friedman, Francis Pettengill, George Jacobs,  
Leonard Gonsalves, Patrick Roth, Melissa Haskell, Stewart Washburn  
MEMBERS ABSENT: Larry Fox

BEGINNING RESERVE FUND BALANCE: \$630,000  
ENDING RESERVE FUND BALANCE: \$551,000

---

## FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

### AGENDA

*Thursday, September 6, 2007 at 7:00 P.M.*

**Room 315**

- 7:00 P.M. Approval of August 30, 2007 Minutes  
Approval of Record of Votes Taken August 30, 2007
- 7:05 P.M. Meeting with the Alternative Energy Committee re: Wind By-Law -Ron DiPippo, Chairperson (Please see revision emailed from P. Friedman on 9/2/07 at 7:19 P.M.)
- 7:25 P.M. Meeting with CIP -Bob Metcalf, Chairperson
- 7:55 P.M. OSRD By-Law (Joel Avila, Chairperson Master Planning – Land Use Committee and Donald Perry, Planning Director)
- 8:30 P.M. Finalize vote on spending of balances (Stab Fund, Reserve Fund, Cap I, etc.)

8:55 P.M. Discuss posting minutes on the website.

9:00 P.M. Adjourn

Scheduled Meeting dates:  
September 13, 20, 27

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- Receive a monthly account of Town Revenue – to start by the end of July (08/10/07-reminded C. Karvonen via email, 09/05/07- follow-up email)
- Receive an update of legal bill estimates and some sort of a calculation of the variance between budgeted and actual expenses – check at the end of first quarter (unassigned)
- Schedule a meeting with Mary Sahady to review the Town Audit and Management Letter (decide if necessary after reviewing Management Letters)
- Insure that the October Town meeting Schedule A is in the same format as the last Town Meeting so that it is consistent and presented in a format to which Town Meeting Members are accustomed. (unassigned)
- Draft a Town Financial Status Report for website (Peter and Greg)
- Informational piece on responsibilities of the Finance Committee for the website (Len Gonsalves)
- Ask for 2007 Management Letter around September 28<sup>th</sup> (date of last years management letter).
- Suggested format for reviewing fiscal implications of contracts (Greg)
- Draft of Finance Committee and Select Board joint policy with regard to one time revenues. (unassigned)
- Ed Iacaponi to discuss the posting of the draft Town Meeting Warrant on the FinCom portion of the website with Michael Gagne. (Ed Iacaponi and Michael Gagne 09/05/07 – reminder email sent to E. Iacaponi and M. Gagne copied)
- Follow-up on unemployment payments made to teachers. (Lenny Gonsalves and Greg Lynam)
- Peter Friedman and Michael Gagne to discuss meeting schedule related to warrant articles. (Peter Friedman and Michael Gagne)

**UNSCHEDULED AGENDA ITEMS**

- discuss audit and management letter and response - ongoing
- discuss Financial Management Review from DOR - ongoing
- Discuss letters to department heads regarding 2% challenge (Stewart)
- Consistent format for Revenue breakdown (Greg)

**IDEAS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION**

**MOTION**

Leonard Gonsalves moved Peter Friedman seconded a motion to approve the August 30, 2007 Meeting Minutes.

---

*(Vote 7-0-0)*

#### MOTION

Leonard Gonsalves moved and George Jacobs seconded a motion to approve the Record of Votes Taken

*(Vote 7-0-0)*

#### **Meeting with Dr. Ron DiPippo and Roger Grace from the Alternative Energy Committee to discuss the proposed Commercial Wind By-law**

Dr. DiPippo explained that this by-law was for wind turbines of 1.5 megawatts or larger to be considered commercial sized. They would generally be dedicated to an on-site load or used to send power into the grid. This by-law deals with land based wind turbines versus offshore turbines. The Alternative Energy Committee is working on a by-law to specifically address offshore turbines.

There was a significant amount of discussion about the setbacks required, the size parcel needed for these turbines and possible sites around Town for these type of turbines. Ron DiPippo noted that there are not too many places in Town that a wind tower would be commercially viable. To be viable, the turbines need to be sited on a higher point or close to the water. The northern part of Town has the highest elevations, but not much in terms of load. The Town thinks the DPW site would be a viable site for the Town to develop for its own use.

Greg Lynam raised several issues dealing with the inspection of towers and assurances of safety. He pointed out that the by-law lacked clear language as to the Town entity responsible for inspecting the towers and insuring their safety. Ron DiPippo pointed out that the by-law called for a Technical Research Group that had discretion at all levels of an application process. Mr. Lynam said that no member of the group necessarily had the required knowledge to understand the safety issues related to tower specifications. Wording changes to the by-law were suggested by Mr. Lynam.

Questions about insurance requirements, bonding for removal of tower at the end of its useful life and allowed proximity to the shoreline were also asked. Further issues were raised by Gregory Lynam about the use of the towers for communications antennas. He raised the point that this presented an opportunity for individuals to be able to get communication antennas in all zoning areas, thus circumventing the current law that prohibits communication towers in General Residents zoning area.

Ron DiPippo and Roger Grace said that they would take the Finance Committee's comments back to the Alternative Energy Committee and discuss making some wording changes to the by-law. Any changes will be emailed to Peter Friedman and he agreed to disseminate the information to the group.

#### **Meeting with the CIP Committee**

Peter Friedman opened the discussion with the CIP Committee by saying that there will be turn backs in the fall and perhaps an opportunity to spend some of these funds on capital needs of the Town. The Finance Committee would like to understand the items that the CIP Committee views as priorities.

Robert Metcalf pointed to the warrant article that the CIP sponsored, indicating that it is the CIP Committee's view that the Town needs four police cruisers. Purchasing four cruisers would put

the Town back on its schedule for purchasing new cruisers, and new police radios were needed. There are some parts of Town where the radio signal is so weak the police can not use it to get a call through. The rest of the capital needs would be in the water and sewer areas and would come from their respective Enterprise funds. There was some discussion about the need for a recycling truck. Leonard Gonsalves noted that he was under the impression that the Town's recycling truck was in relatively good shape compared with neighboring towns. Ed Iacaponi said that the truck needed some work and that the entire fleet needs some maintenance attention. There was a question of whether it made sense to purchase a recycler when the Town would be looking at the possibility of privatizing this function. Ed Iacaponi pointed out that the Town had committed to this program for two years.

Leonard Gonsalves questioned the CIP Committee's decision to not recommend anything from list that was developed before the annual Town Meeting. The CIP said made its recommendations working within the constraints of the budget versus based on a wish list. There was a general desire expressed by the Finance Committee to see a prioritized list of capital needs form the CIP Committee.

#### **Meeting with Donald Perry, Director of Planning about the proposed Open Space Residential Design ("OSRD") by-law**

Donald Perry explained that the current by-law allows for smaller lots to preserve larger pieces of open space. This is often advantageous to the developer because it decreases the cost of the infrastructure without decreasing the number of lots built. Under the current by-law, the developer must submit both a conventional and an OSRD plan to the Planning Board. However, the developer has the choice as to which plan to use. Under the proposed changes, developments of five or more lots would be required to submit both plans and the Planning Board would make the final determination as to which plan to use after a public hearing. Mr. Perry noted that 60% of the developments in Town are four lots or smaller in size.

Melissa Haskell noted that she had been a member of the Master Plan – Land Use Committee before joining the Finance Committee and pointed out that this by-law came out of feedback received from the Master Plan brainstorming session in which one of the overriding themes was to retain the rural character of the Town. Leonard Gonsalves pointed out that there were conceivably no ANRs for five or more lots.

There was discussion with Mr. Perry about the Planning Board view of the proposed Commercial Wind Power By-law. He indicated that the Planning Board had made a recommendation on the Article yet.

#### **Finalize vote on spending of balances (stab fund, reserve fund, cap I)**

It was agreed that this discussion would be deferred to a future meeting.

#### **Posting of Minutes on the Website**

The Finance Committee discussed the pros and cons of posting their full minutes on the Finance Committee portion of the Town website.

Leonard Gonsalves asked that his letter on ruminations be appended to this week's minutes.

#### **MOTION**

Moved by Leonard Gonsalves that his letter on ruminations be appended to last week's minutes. The motions was seconded by Melissa Haskell.

---

*(Vote 8-0-0)*

**MOTION**

Francis Pettengill moved that the meeting minutes of the Finance Committee be posted on the Finance Committee's portion of the Town website subsequent to approval. The motion was seconded by Peter Friedman.

*(Vote 6-2-0)*

**Reserve Fund Transfer for Manpower**

Ed Iacaponi requested a reserve fund transfer to pay a Manpower invoice. After some discussion and a review of the budget, all agreed that the funds should come out of the Director of Budget and Finance's budget from the line item "Overtime and Additional Hours".

**Other Business and Action Items**

Greg Lynam expressed some surprise at Michael Gagne's comment at our last meeting that we had a \$500,000 deductible on an insurance policy and queried Ed Iacaponi as to the policy Mr. Gage was referring to. Mr. Iacaponi did not know what policy Mr. Gagne was referring to specifically, but indicated that he would get a list of the different insurance policies and their deductibles.

There was discussion about the various unemployment claims the Town was paying for some school department employees. Leonard Gonsalves and Greg Lynam had looked into this issue with the help of the Superintendent's secretary, Joan, who Mr. Gonsalves noted had been very helpful. There continued to be some questions about various claims. Bryan Britton in the Treasurer's Office was already gathering the appropriate information and following up on these claims.

**MOTION**

Melissa Haskell moved that the meeting be adjourned. Stewart Washburn seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned 9:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Haskell  
*Clerk*

---