



Wednesday, October 4, 2017
Select Board and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
Town Hall Meeting Room 203 – 7:00 pm

Pursuant to notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a meeting of the Select Board was held at 7:00 p.m. in the in Room 203, Town Hall, 100 Middle Street, Town of Hadley.

Present were: Molly Keegan, Chair; Joyce Chunglo, Clerk; Donald Pipczynski, Member, Gerald Devine, Member

Absent -John Waskiewicz, Member

Also present were: David Nixon, Town Administrator; Amy Fyden, FinCom; Terry Yusko, Fin Com; Tom Pitta, Fin Com; Andy Klepacki, P&R; Jane Nevinsmith, Resident; Marlo Warner, DPW, Gabriel Owen, Fin Com; Valerie Hood, Fin Com; Linda Sanderson, Town Treasurer

1. Call to Order

1.1 Call to order

Meeting was called to order by Molly Keegan, Chair at 7pm.

2. Consent Agenda

Minutes	September 6; September 13
Warrants	PR1813, AP1813, AP1813S
Water Treatment Plant Operator	Adjustment in pay.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda

Motion: Devine Second: Chunglo

Vote: 4-0-0

3. Public Comments: 7:00 - 7:15 pm

3.1 Public Comments

Jane Nevinsmith announces that the COA is hosting its third Annual Wine Tasting on October 12th. Gerald Devine announces that Cross Country team at Hopkins just completed their first event on the commons and they won. They are now 9-0. They will be hosting another event on the commons on the 24th and that he will get started on the paperwork. Thanks to the Town for use of the commons and to DPW for cleaning it up.

4. Town Administrator Report

4.1 Town Administrator Report

5. Appointments

6. Old Business

6.1 Special Town Meeting, October 5, 2017, Warrant and Budget Discussion

David Nixon states that we do have Free Cash, that this information came in this morning and that we were not expecting this amount.

Gerald Devine asks for clarification over the Free Cash amount.

David Nixon states that I have been telling you since February we were going to have 500,000 dollars in Free Cash and we structured the budget around that figure. We made a number of funding recommendations that can now be revised and should be revised. The Free Cash came in at 863, 634.



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Gerald Devine states that there is a 360,000 dollar difference than what we budgeted.

David Nixon states that this difference is due in part to the Rt.9 project from a year ago, where we had an artificial hit to Free Cash due to the project and reimbursement last year, and that hit now becomes a windfall for this year. This accounts for \$125,000 in the difference in Free Cash. The enterprises funds with unreserved balances for sewer at \$461,000 and water for \$524,000, and \$784,000 for the Cable Enterprise Fund.

Donald Pipczynski asks for answers why there is such a big difference and there are a lot hard feelings between the Finance Committee and us and we are going to look unprepared at Town Meeting.

Molly Keegan asks David Nixon for further clarification of the Free Cash and what would be the one-time funds.

David Nixon responds \$575,000 was turned back from departmental turn backs, \$125,000 was reimbursed from the Rt.9 waterline project, \$80,000 grant reimbursement from FY16 (this was money that was not reimbursed before the end of the fiscal year), \$45,000 charges from collections from previous years, \$35,000 from unspent encumbrances from previous years.

Molly Keegan states that we are looking at the over \$500,000 turn backs from departments and we should really look at them as one time. For example: some money was turned back because of hiring lapses and will be fully funded next year, so there will not be the same turn backs next year. I would prefer that we move forward but not to become too focused in on this amount.

Further discussion about the Free Cash numbers.

Gerald Devine inquires is there any way to get the Free Cash certification quicker.

Molly Keegan states that we have to meet our deadlines and then we will have a turner around.

David Nixon states that we did not meet our local revenue receipts for liquor licenses, hotel revenue, excise, and meal tax we were about \$38,000 dollars short, which has an impact on what we can claim for FY18. We reduced the local receipts for FY18 to \$45,000.

We will pay for the OPEB contribution from Free Cash and we will not need to borrow stabilization. The Free Cash numbers mean that we do not need to borrow from stabilization and that is the best choice.

David Nixon continues with expenditures there are few changes. The changes are mostly to do with the stipends to elected officials for the 1st quarter. I have adjusted the budget for the amounts that were already paid.

Motion to reinstate the salaries for the Select Board, Finance Committee, the Park and Recreation Commission, and the Assessors.

Motion: Devine Second: Pipczynski for discussion

Molly Keegan inquires why should the salaries be reinstated.

Gerald Devine states we are taking this out mid-year and if there is money, we should leave it alone, instead of changing things mid- year.

Joyce Chunglo asks for the total amount. We should have a discussion with all of the boards and committees for FY2019.

David Nixon states that it is about \$9,000.

Molly Keegan says that she will have the dissenting opinion, because we a lot of the turn backs will not repeat next year and if we are concerned for next year we need to maximize savings however we can.



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We are not talking about employees we are talking about volunteers and elected officials. I am not in favor of reinstating the stipends.

Gerald Devine states that he heard from members of these boards and committees who feel that they were blindsided mid-year. I think that we can discuss it for next year but it is wrong to take it now, if we do not have to.

Donald Pipczynski asks if it is legal to take the funds.

David Nixon states that it is if you have 2/3 majority vote at Town Meeting.

Terry Yusko states that she feels we should stay the course and that we are committed to getting budget straightened out. We do not make a lot of money and it is not about the money. There is only representative from P&R here, no one from Assessors, they all know about this and none of them are here.

David Nixon states that this was a recommendation from the DOR in 2013 that part time elected officials should give up their stipends.

Further discussion of the stipends and the FY19 budget.

Gabriel Owen offers a compromise of only the Select Board and Finance Committee giving up their stipends this year and bringing in the other board and committees to discuss them giving up their stipends for next fiscal year. We would make the statement that as leadership we are committed.

Gerald Devine asks the Finance Committee if they would like to be removed from his earlier motion to reinstate the stipends for the boards and committees.

By a 5-0-0 vote, the Finance Committee states that they would like to be removed from Gerald Devine's motion.

Gerald Devine makes a friendly amendment to the motion to remove the Finance Committee from the original motion

Vote: 3-1-0

Joyce Chunglo states that she votes yes, but she will give up her stipend.

Molly Keegan concurs that she will also give up her stipend.

David Nixon then discusses Article 4 and Article 5

Gerald Devine asks Article 5 to be discussed before Article 4

David Nixon concurs and states that Article 5 is a capital article. We have 3 vehicles - police cruiser for \$45,000, Fire Administrative vehicle for \$47,500 and a DPW Ford 500 for \$80,000 for a total of \$172,500. We had originally proposed that we borrow for these vehicles because we had insignificant Free Cash and Capital Stabilization funds to cover them. We now have sufficient cash to cover them, which is a better use of town money.

Motion to make amendments to Article 5 to pay with Free Cash for the vehicles instead of financed which was voted on unanimously by CPC, SB, and Fin Com and to amend Article 4 Free Cash number to \$224,859

Motion: Devine Second: Chunglo for discussion



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Terry Yusko inquires if you voted back in the stipends shouldn't the money be returned to all of the departments that turned back over money for the fire department. The COA, the Treasurer, the DPW, and TA.

David Nixon states that as of right now the COA has not asked for their money back. I am not asking for my money back, nor is the DPW.

Terry Yusko states that we should return the money to the departments first, if we have an excess of Free Cash.

Donald Pipczynski states that the Senior Center has returned \$11,000 dollars for the last 5 years. There has been extra money in their budget for the last 5 years.

Further discussion of the warrant articles.

Donald Pipczynski ask to make a friendly amendment to deduct the \$22,742 from that figure and leave 48,000 in Free Cash.

Molly Keegan states that this would have us return all of the money that was returned to turn backs from the departments.

Terry Yusko asks if that amount includes the \$10,000 from the Finance Committee's budget.

David Nixon states that it does not and if we include it the amount going to Free Cash would go down to \$38,000.

Motion to deduct \$32,742 from the Free Cash figure in Article 4, leave \$38,000 in Free Cash and leave article 5 how it was first motioned.

Motion: Pipczynski Second: Chunglo
Vote:

Donald Pipczynski inquires how much we were leaving in Free Cash before this money became available.

David Nixon states that it was down to 0.

Gerald Devine removes his motion for the point of clarity.

Motion to that the cruiser, the fire administrative vehicle, and the DPW Ford 500 be paid from Capital Stabilization.

Motion: Devine Second: Chunglo
Vote: 4-0-0

Molly Keegan asks to address Article 4 again.

Motion to ensure that Article 4 should have sufficient transferred Free Cash funds to cover Article 5 capital articles.

Motion: Devine Second: Pipczynski
Vote: 4-0-0

David Nixon discusses the restoration of the funds of about \$32,742 in Article 1.

7. New Business

7.1 Warrant for the November 14 Election

Motion to send notice to the Town Clerk, to schedule a ballot vote for all Tuesday, November 14, to decide all items requiring a debt exclusion including additional funding for the new senior center and library.



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Motion: Chunglo Second: Devine
Vote: 4-0-0

8. Other

8.1 DCR and Sno-Goers Snowmobile Club

Gerald Devine states that they would like to come in and speak to this article, please postpone this until they come in to speak to it.

9. Announcements

Donald Pipczynski states that he is working on a Selectmen's Association meeting, and bringing it back. We are going to host a dinner at the North Hadley Sugar Shack with 40 people. There will be more information coming but it will December 8th.

Joyce Chunglo offers condolences on the passing of John Frawley to his family.

Molly Keegan reminder Fall Town Meeting tomorrow night at Hopkins Academy.

The next Select Board meeting will be on October 18, 2017.

Donald Pipczynski asks for information about the Financial Management Team meeting.

Molly Keegan states that Justin went through a calendar for the Free Cash.

David Nixon states that we also addressed the IFB for Audit Services and that bid is due back on October 17, 2017. We also discussed the process of creating the FY19 budget. We need to be clear to the departments on who they are responding to during the budget season.

Terry Yusko asks if the Select Board will be putting the tax classification hearing and the override discussion on the agenda for your next meeting.

Molly Keegan states that they will have a place in the discussion of the FY19 budget.

10. Adjournment

10.1 Adjournment

Motion to adjourn

Motion: Devine Second: Chunglo
Vote: 4-0-0

Meeting was adjourned at 8:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Sanders James