



Town of Medway
FINANCE COMMITTEE
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Approved:

Meeting Minutes: February 23, 2009
Medway High School – Library

Call to Order: With a quorum being met this meeting was called to order at: 7:02pm.

Members Present: Chairman Frank Faist, Vice Chairman Larry Ellsworth, Clerk Phil Giangarra, Member Phyllis Cerel, Member Jeffrey DeVolder, Member Jan Fish, Member Paul Marble, and Administrative Assistant Shirley Bliss.

Guests Present: School Committee members: Chairman Diane Borgatti, Shelley Wieler, Debra Trindade, Carole Bernstein, School Superintendent, Judith Evans and David Verdolino.

TRANE Representatives: Mark Heliliski, Yaju Chauhan, Chris Marshall, Leo McNeil.

Reporter: Aaron Wasserman,

Board of Selectman Representatives: Chairman Glenn Trindade, Member Andy Espinosa, Member Dennis Crowley, Member John Dunn, Member John Forresto and BOS Administrative Assistant Wendy Harrington.

Town Administrator Suzanne Kennedy.

Town Moderator: Mark Cerel

Consent Calendar vote from February 17, 2009 meeting:

Chairman Faist requested and received a motion to re-open and discuss further the consent calendar agreed to. A motion was made by Phil Giangarra and seconded by Jeff DeVolder to reopen and discuss this article. Chairman Faist explained that Article #7 the use of free cash has since been dismissed by the Board of Selectman; as monies have been found to cover the monies requested in this article. A motion was made by Phil Giangarra to dismiss this article, seconded by Jeff DeVolder and unanimously by a vote of 7-0-0 to recommend dismissal of this article at the Special Town Meeting on February 24, 2009.

A motion was made by Phil Giangarra and seconded by Phyllis Cerel to reopen the discussion on Article 14, a request brought forward by the Board of Selectman asking that they be allowed to submit a ballot question; requesting the Town to allow the BOS to act as the Water and Sewer Commission. Chairman Faist explained that there was not enough time to legally make the requested changes. A motion was made by Larry Ellsworth and seconded by Phil Giangarra and unanimously agreed to by a vote of 7-0-0 to recommend dismissal of Article 14.

TRANE Project:

A lengthy discussion was held concerning the request of the School Committee to put forward an article requesting the Town bond 4.2million to fund an energy management system for the Medway schools.

In conclusion of many hours of meetings it has been agreed upon by the School Committee, Board of Selectman and The Finance Committee that an independent committee made up of 7 people, two (2) Board of Selectman members, two (2) School Committee members, one (1) Finance Committee member and two (2) Member Citizens. This Committee will write, publish, and review responses to and RFP for an energy management consultant to review the current TRANE contract. This Committee has no more than eight (8) weeks to hire, have the consultant review, and present a report to the School Committee, Board of Selectman and the Finance Committee. This committee/consultant will verify all information presented by TRANE, speak with other town contracted with them, and review the contract, equipment reliability, maintenance agreement and do a complete background review.

This consultant will be paid for by the Town with a transfer from the Finance Committee emergency fund.

School Superintendent Judith Evans stressed that time is of the essence, as not only do some of the rebates expires, but there is an approximate 12 week lead time on some of the components of the system to be installed. Also with the change in the time line come changes to the contract and possibility the borrowing rate. Some of the possible rebates expire in July, 2009, but most can be re-applied for with the possibility of receiving more money than current rebate offers. Superintendent Evans also stressed that the School Committee and her office followed the letter of the law on this contract and waiting even longer to begin could possibility delay this project until Summer 2010, costing the school another year of the both high utility bills, and a less than perfect leaning environment for the students of Medway.

A lengthy discussion was had concerning the due diligence of the background checks done on the TRANE cooperation and their ability to deliver their promises. The payment plan and savings were also discussed as the contract requires a 50% payment of total costs upfront as well as 100% of the costs of the solar panels, with savings not realized until the 10th year of the 20 year contract. Leo McNeil from TRANE stated that this is written as a "performance contract", meaning TRANE will make, install and maintain the equipment. He also questioned the results of an independent contractor in so much as each person has their own ideas of what is correct. Do they then have to have discussions with the consultant, causing more time to lapse, putting this project further behind.

Bond repayment was discussed and the School Committee is stating that this project is "structured as self-funding." The annual costs for the bond will be paid from the school budget using the savings from this contract.

Adjournment: With no further business before this Committee, Phil Giangarra motioned and Jeff DeVolder second and with a unanimous vote of 7-0-0 this meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.