



Town of Medway
FINANCE COMMITTEE

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Approved: June 28, 2011

Meeting Minutes: May 11, 2011
Medway High School Library

Members Present: Chairman Eric Arbeene, Vice Chairman Martin Dietrich, Clerk, Chris Lagan and Members ,Rondi Chapman, Kevin Dickie, Jeff O'Neil, Tony Pacholec, Frank Rossi and Administrative Assistant, Shirley Bliss.

Guest Present: Suzanne Kennedy, Medway Town Administrator, Dennis Crowley, BOS Chairman, BOS Member Rich Dunn, BOS Member Glenn Trindade, and Deb Trindade, Medway School Committee Chairman, Carol Brown, Ed Duggan from the Library Board of Trustees.

Call to Order: With a quorum being met, this meeting was called to order by Chairman Arbeene at: 7:11pm.

New Business:

Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles:

Chairman Arbeene read and with the exception of Article 7 (Repurposing of Library Regionalization Funds) all articles passed without discussion.

Article 7 was discussed as follows: Dennis Crowley presented that the BOS would like to use the funds currently allocated for the Libraries Regionalization to purchase new equipment for the library. No new money is needed to re-purpose these funds.

Upon completion of this discussion a vote was taken on all the articles. All articles were passed unanimously.

Article One:	Passed	Funding Snow and Ice Deficit
Article Two:	Passed	Salary Reserve – Fire and Police Union Contracts
Article Three :	Passed	Ambulance Enterprise Fund – Fire Union Contact
Article Four:	Passed	Salary Reserve - Fire and Police Union Contracts
Article Five:	Passed	Budget Transfer for Street Acceptances
Article Six:	Passed	Re-Purpose Funds; Library Equipment
Article Seven:	Passed	Budget Transfer to Assessor Revolving Acct.

Annual Meeting Warrant Articles:

Article 21: Charter Change: Library Personnel:

With two (2) members of the Library Board of Trustees present this article was taken out of order. Board of Trustee Members: Ed Duggan and Carol Brown requested clarification as to the reason behind this Article; as well as the need for this Article.

A fairly lengthy discussion was held during which Chairman of the BOS, Dennis Crowley stated that the Town is trying to have all persons who receive a paycheck from the Town report to the Town Administrator; currently the Library and the School are the only ones that do not. It was also stated during the discussion that in the Board of Selectman's opinion the Library never really gave the regionalization with Franklin a chance, leaving them to want to have more involvement in the running of the Library. The BOS believes that the Library BOT's is allowing the employees to run the library; they used the example that when Felicity Oteri (Library Director shared with Franklin) suggested reworking the Libraries hours and staff to allow the Library to be open more, the employees didn't like that idea and went to the BOT and the changes were voted down.

Mr. Duggan and Ms. Brown both inquired as to why the Library BOT were not notified of this Warrant Article. They were told by both Ms. Kennedy and Mr. Crowley that their Chairman of the Board (Wendy Rowe) was informed and sent a copy of the Article. Both Ms. Brown and Mr. Duggan stated that until Finance Committee Member Rondi Chapman forwarded them a copy they has no knowledge of this Article. Ms. Rowe has relayed to this Committee that she found out thru the same channel of information – Finance Committee.

Ms. Brown asked the BOS and Town Administrator if they have a plan on how they were going to make the Library run more efficient. Ms. Kennedy stated that they do not plan on running the library they just wish to see it run better. She also stated that they (BOS & TA) want to see the Library run under the same rules as the other town employees. Ms. Kennedy stated the there are things currently going on (vacations, lack of job descriptions, BOT members cleaning bathrooms, employees working from home) that should not be happening, showing that there is a need for a new reporting system. Ms. Brown also wanted to state that the Library is not resisting change, but would like to be given more information before they agree to any changes.

The timing of this Article was also questioned by several members of the Finance Committee. Ms. Chapman stated that she felt that right now was not the time for all of this change. She also stated that the BOT and the BOS should be focusing their efforts on working together to come to an understanding on the best route the Library should take to go forward. Currently tensions are so thick that nothing good is going to happen. As for the hiring of an "interim" Director without advertising, she believed that if the Library BOT feels that she person has the necessary experience, they would know better than anyone. Ms. Chapman also stated that the fact that the Board of Trustees is willing to wash bathrooms if an actually a plus not a negative; more board/employees should be as willing as the BOT to step up when necessary.

Mr. Duggan, a Library Board of Trustee member stated in response to the application process that the current "interim" director applied when the last Director left, due to the Town cut the Libraries budget, she was not hired. He also stated that in all his years as a BOT he has never seen a Board of Selectmen attend a Library meeting, leaving him to question their knowledge of what needs to be done to run the Library on a daily basis. Mr. Duggan also reminded both the BOS and the Finance Committee that any changes to the policies of the Library require legislative approval. Mr. Duggan also feels that the non-binding ballot question is lacking all the information for the town's people to make an informative vote. Ms. Brown added that currently the employees report to the Director who reports to the Board of Trustees. She added that currently Legislation gives the BOT and only the BOT power to make all necessary employee decisions.

Article 21: Charter Change: Library Personnel: (continued)

Ms. Brown also stated that current day to day operations of the library is handled by the Library Director the BOT is there to set policy and make sure it is followed.

Finance Committee member Tony Pacholec stated that although he believes that the shift to reporting to the TA is necessary and will eventually happen he also questions the timing as well as the ability of the TA to run the library as there is no experience or knowledge currently there. Mr. Pacholec also believes that the Library BOT should set all policies concerning the Library.

Finance Committee individual comments:

- Martin: Need effort on both sides to communicate better.
- Frank: Communication needs to happen, issues need to be solved
- Rondi: Eventually this needs to happen, but now is not the time
- Tony: Need is there, but a team needs to be in place for a good transition
- Jim: Questions timing, still too many questions about future plans
- Kevin: Questions timing and also have many questions as to the plan
- Eric: Believes now is the time for this change, but also feels timing is suspicious and the communication issues petty.

With no further discussion Rondi Chapman made a motion to dismiss this Article. Martin Dietrich seconded.

This Committee voted 4-3 to **dismiss** Article 21 - Charter Change: Library Personnel

Town Meeting Article Votes:

Please see attached for all motions and votes.

Library ETR: \$20,000

This agenda item was put on hold, until the Board of Selectman have a chance to discuss and vote. The Finance Committee will revisit after the BOS vote.

Adjournment:

With no more business to discuss, this meeting was adjourned at: 8:47pm.