



Town of Medway
FINANCE COMMITTEE
155 Village Street
Medway MA 02053

Tel: (508) 533-3200
Fax: (508) 533-3201

October 23, 2013 – 7:00 PM
Sanford Hall
155 Village Street

Present: Frank Rossi, Vice-Chair; Barry Schroeder, Clerk; Members: Christine Devine (7:02 PM), Meghan Hoffman (7:04 PM), Chris Lagan, Neil Kennedy and Jim Sullivan.

Absent: Jeff O’Neill, Chairman; Todd Alessandri.

Also Present: Melanie Phillips, Finance Director; John Foresto, Selectman; Dennis Crowley, Selectman; Richard D’Innocenzo, Selectman.

There being a quorum present, Vice-Chair Rossi called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

At 7:01 PM Mr. Neil Kennedy moved that the Finance Committee open a public hearing for the purpose of soliciting comments from the public relative to Warrant Articles that will be voted at the 2013 Fall Town Meeting on November 18, 2013; Mr. Chris Lagan seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 5-0-0.

Utilizing a copy of the Fall Town Meeting Warrant, updated as of October 9, 2013, members of the Finance Committee read aloud each article or a portion thereof, and invited public comment as the articles were read. The following Warrant Articles were presented:

- Article 1 – Amendment Annual Authorization: Council on Aging Revolving Account:
- Article 2 – Lease for Fire Station Solar Installation:
- Article 3 – Lease for McGovern School Solar Installation:
- Article 4 – Land Acquisition: Wickett Property:
- Article 5 – Utility Easement: Thayer Property:
- Article 6 – Thayer Project: Expand Scope to Include Barn:
- Article 7 – Free Cash Appropriation: Energy Committee Activities:
- Article 8 – Athletic Fields: Design and Engineering:
- Article 9 – Free Cash Appropriation: Library Items:

- Article 10 – Free Cash Appropriation: Comprehensive Zoning Review:
- Article 11 – Salary Reserve Transfer: Police Union Contract:
- Article 12 – Salary Reserve Transfer: Conservation Budget:
- Article 13 – Sewer Retained Earnings Transfer: Debt Service:
- Article 14: Establish Sewer Betterment Stabilization Fund:
- Article 15 – Repurpose Monetary Article: GPS System –
- Article 16: Transfer Capital Borrowing: Middle School Renovation:
- Article 17: Amend By-Law: CPA Tax Period:

There were no members of the public present; therefore, no public comment was received.

At 7:05 PM Mr. Barry Schroeder moved that the public hearing be closed; Ms. Meghan Hoffman seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0 (Ms. Devine and Ms. Hoffman arrived after the hearing was convened)

At this time, the Finance Committee moved into its regular monthly meeting.

Review – Fall Town Meeting Warrant:

The Committee reviewed a draft Fall Town Meeting Warrant, updated as of October 9, 2013.

In order to print the Warrant with recommendations of the Finance Committee, Warrant Articles were discussed with the following recommendations as follows:

Article 1 – Amendment Annual Authorization: Council on Aging Revolving Account: **Mr. Neil Kennedy moved that the Finance Committee recommend Article 1 as presented; Ms. Meghan Hoffman seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 2 – Lease for Fire Station Solar Installation: **Ms. Meghan Hoffman moved that the Finance Committee recommend Article 2 as presented; Mr. Jim Sullivan seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 3 – Lease for McGovern School Solar Installation: Selectman Foresto stated that this is a placeholder article that allows the school to enter into an agreement if a solar installation could be placed there. Brief discussion followed on net metering, energy credits and related matters. **Ms. Meghan Hoffman moved that the Finance Committee recommend Article 3 as presented; Mr. Chris Lagan seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 4 – Land Acquisition: Wickett Property: Selectman Foresto reported that the Board of Selectmen had not yet taken a position on this matter, noting he could not discuss it as all Board discussions occurred within Executive Session. **Ms. Christine Devine moved that the Finance Committee recommend a position of TBD (To Be Determined) on Article 4 at this time; Mr. Jim Sullivan seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 5 – Utility Easement: Thayer Property: Selectman Foresto stated Verizon asked for an easement to put equipment on the Thayer property to facilitate maintenance of that equipment. It would be an underground installation. The Board of Selectmen has not yet had an opportunity to vote on this article.

Ms. Meghan Hoffman moved that the Finance Committee recommend Article 5 as presented; Mr. Chris Lagan seconded. NO discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.

Article 6 – Thayer Project: Expand Scope to Include Barn: It was noted that this article will likely be deleted. For this reason, the Finance Committee did not vote a recommendation on this article.

Article 7 – Free Cash Appropriation: Energy Committee Activities: **Ms. Christine Devine moved that the Finance Committee recommend Article 7 as presented; Mr. Jim Sullivan seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 8 – Athletic Fields: Design and Engineering: Selectman D’Innocenzo reported that the intent is to develop a plan that could be feasible and as cost effective as possible. It was clarified that CPA funds can be used to fund design and engineering services. Selectman Crowley briefly updated the committee on procedural aspects of beginning the field work. Brief discussion followed. **Ms. Christine Devine moved that the Finance Committee recommend a position of TBD (To Be Determined) on Article 8 at this time; Ms. Meghan Hoffman seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 9 – Free Cash Appropriation: Library Items: Selectman Foresto reported that this article would fund additional programs including associated staffing, and have someone to monitor the use of the large meeting room in the evenings. It is unclear whether this amount will be worked into their annual budget in future years. **Ms. Meghan Hoffman moved that the Finance Committee recommend Article 9 as presented; Ms. Christine Devine seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 10 – Free Cash Appropriation: Comprehensive Zoning Review: Concern was expressed as to whether \$10,000 would be sufficient. **Ms. Meghan Hoffman moved that the Finance Committee recommend Article 9 as presented; Mr. Jim Sullivan seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 11 – Salary Reserve Transfer: Police Union Contract: Ms. Melanie Phillips explained that, because the contract was not negotiated before the end of the fiscal year, the money went to salary reserve, and now it has to be voted back out. **Ms. Meghan Hoffman moved that the Finance Committee recommend Article 11 as presented; Mr. Chris Lagan seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 12 – Salary Reserve Transfer: Conservation Budget: **Ms. Meghan Hoffman moved that the Finance Committee recommend Article 12 as presented; Mr. Chris Lagan seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 13 – Sewer Retained Earnings Transfer: Debt Service: **Ms. Meghan Hoffman moved that the Finance Committee recommend Article 13 as presented; Ms. Christine Devine seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 14: Establish Sewer Betterment Stabilization Fund: Ms. Melanie Phillips explained that this article is designed to collect betterment fees in a fund from which the expenses relative to sewer improvements will be paid. **Ms. Meghan Hoffman moved that the Finance Committee recommend Article 14 as presented; Ms. Christine Devine seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 15 – Repurpose Monetary Article: GPS System – Mr. Chris Lagan stated he was uncomfortable with this article. He acknowledged the Town Administrator’s concern for female employees being alone in dangerous or remote areas and suggested getting devices for those who really need it, but not for the

thirty (30) vehicles that are being considered. Mr. Jim Sullivan concurred, noting that a 12-month trial period could be funded first, then evaluate the success or benefit of the program before moving forward. The overall concern was that it would get lost in the budget process and not get enough review. Selectman Foresto noted that the Board of Selectmen performs a line item review of the annual budget. Ms. Phillips added that this program is intended for any employee who goes out to the community alone, not just females. Discussion followed. **Ms. Christine Devine moved that the Finance Committee recommend Article 15 as presented; Mr. Neil Kennedy seconded. No further discussion. VOTE: 5-2-0 (Hoffman and Lagan oppose).**

Article 16: Transfer Capital Borrowing: Middle School Renovation: **Ms. Meghan Hoffman moved that the Finance Committee recommend Article 16 as presented; Ms. Christine Devine seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Article 17: Amend By-Law: CPA Tax Period: **Ms. Meghan Hoffman moved that the Finance Committee recommend Article 17 as presented; Ms. Christine Devine seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.**

Liaison Reports:

Vice-Chair Rossi stated he will be attending the meeting of the Community Preservation Committee.

Ms. Christine Devine reminded everyone of the November 19 joint meeting of the Finance Committee, Board of Selectman and the School Committee to review the realigned school budget.

Mr. Jim Sullivan reported he will be meeting with Andy Rodenhiser of the Planning and Economic Development Board next week.

Approval of Minutes:

The Committee reviewed draft minutes from October 9, 2013.

Ms. Meghan Hoffman moved that the Finance Committee approve the minutes of October 9, 2013, as amended; Ms. Christine Devine seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.

Next Meetings:

The November 13 meeting of the Finance Committee has been cancelled.

The Finance Committee will intend meet immediately prior to Fall Town Meeting on November 18, 2013 at 6:30 PM at Medway High School.

The joint meeting of the Finance Committee, Board of Selectmen and School Committee to review the realigned budget will be held in the Middle School Presentation Room at 7:00 PM on November 19, 2013.

At 8:04 PM Mr. Chris Lagan moved to adjourn; Mr. Neil Kennedy seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 7-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanette Galliardt
Night Board Secretary