



**Town of Medway**  
**FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**155 Village Street**  
**Medway MA 02053**

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February 11, 2015 -- 7:00 PM  
Town Hall, Sanford Hall  
155 Village Street

Present: Frank Rossi, Chairman; Chris Lagan, Vice-Chair; Barry Schroeder, Clerk; Rohith Ashok, Ellen Hillery, Jeff O'Neill, Meghan Hoffman, Todd Alessandri, and Jim Sullivan. It is noted that Mr. Jim Sullivan participated remotely and had completed the appropriate paperwork.

Also Present: Michael Boynton, Town Administrator; Melanie Phillips, Finance Director; Sue Ellis, Director, Human Resources, John Givner, Veterans' Agent; John Foresto, Selectman.

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**At 7:06 PM Mr. Ashok moved that the Finance Committee open a public hearing for the purpose of hearing public comments relative to the Special Town Meeting Warrant; Mr. Sullivan seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 9-0-0.**

Chairman Rossi asked those assembled if anyone from the public had any questions or comments on any of the financial articles in the Special Town Meeting Warrant. No one from the public was present.

**At 7:07 PM Mr. Ashok moved to close the public hearing; Mr. Schroeder seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 9-0-0.**

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Chairman Rossi called the regular meeting of the Finance Committee to order at 7:09 PM.

**Review of Debt/Debt Service – Finance Director**  
*The Committee reviewed a list of borrowing amounts.*

Present: Melanie Phillips, Finance Director.

Ms. Phillips handed out a document that reflected debt service for permanent debt including dates, amounts, interest amounts, and date the debt "falls off". She indicated the entire amount of the replacement windows for the McGovern School needs to be appropriated, but a lesser amount will be bonded. \$1.3 million needs to be approved at Town Meeting. In conclusion, she reviewed the list of borrow dates listed in the document.

**Review -- Special Town Meeting Warrant:**  
*The Committee reviewed the final Special Town Meeting Warrant.*

At this time, the Finance Committee discussed the Warrant Articles with individuals who were there to answer questions.

Article 1 – McGovern School Window/Door Replacement

There were no questions other than previously expressed in the debt service discussion. Brief discussion followed on the usable life of the McGovern School and associated improvements. Mr. Boynton reported that the bid went out today and a final estimate figure should be available by Special Town Meeting.

Article 3 – Transfer: Veterans’ Benefits

Mr. John Givner, Veterans’ Agent, stated this budget is too low. The caseload is fairly consistent, but it is still rising a little. He noted that medical reimbursement is what generates the increase in benefits.

Responding to a question from Chairman Rossi, Mr. Boynton stated that he would love to be able to budget it as a line item, but it is difficult to predict how much will be needed, much like the Snow and Ice Budget. We still want to handle the account and claims as they come in and address it going forward. We knew we had a STM coming and could predict a shortage by year end so opted to handle it at STM. By using this account, it does not put strain on the reserve fund. If we were to add \$30,000 for these claims, those funds would have to be taken from somewhere else. Brief discussion followed on the nature of the claims, number of veterans, Medway’s unique demographic base of veterans, and eligibility for reimbursement.

Article 2 – Home Rule Petition – Redevelopment Authority

Mr. Boynton briefly explained the eminent domain process, associated appraisals, and various steps. When there is an “owner unknown” status, the Town has to appropriate the full amount of the appraisal up front, it sits and waits, and if not used for the appraisal, the funds become the property of the Commonwealth. Discussion followed.

Article 4 – Health Care Reimbursement Account

Mr. Boynton explained that the original \$60,000 that was set aside three years ago is down to \$5K. That amount may not be enough to get to the end of the fiscal year. Ms. Sue Ellis, Human Resources Director, explained that, when the Town switched from a plan through MIIA to Harvard Pilgrim, the Town saved \$300,000. There are currently some large cases being handled.

Article 5 – Chap. 90 Funding Allocation to Rt. 109 Project

Mr. Boynton explained that the Town is required to have an article appropriating the funds that will be specifically used for the Route 109 Project. It is declaring the intent to use it for this purpose. Chairman Rossi asked what the balance in the account is right now. Mr. Boynton stated he will get the information from Mr. Holder.

Article 6 – Bylaw Amendment: Sewer Extension Moratorium

Mr. Boynton explained that the moratorium is designed to put a hold on new sewer lines or extending lines until it is known what the sewer capacity is. This will not apply to individual connections to existing sewer lines. Responding to question from Mr. Ashok, he stated that having a bylaw makes the process enforceable, otherwise property owners might insist on a new connection and threaten litigation if not done. Selectman Foresto explained that an increase in capacity can be purchased from a community that has excess capacity. Mr. Boynton theorized that this measure shows the DEP and Charles River Pollution Control District that the Town is serious about protecting the capacity we currently have. A vote at Town Meeting also indicates that the residents are behind the Town’s intent.

The measure can be reversed by a return to Town Meeting to repeal the bylaw. It is anticipated that the bylaw may need to be in place for 3 – 5 years. Discussion followed. Concern was expressed that this measure may significantly prevent development.

**Upcoming Meetings:** Mr. Boynton reminded members of the Finance 101 Workshop on March 12. Discussion followed on other meetings that week, i.e., March 9 is the Special Town Meeting, and the Finance Committee will meet briefly beforehand. March 11 is the date for the regular monthly meeting of the Finance Committee. Ms. Hoffman reported that the Capital Improvement Planning Committee wants to attend the March 11 meeting.

**Meals Tax Proposal**

This discussion topic was postponed until a future meeting.

**Vote –Snow and Ice Budget, Deficit Funding:**

Mr. Boynton reported that the Snow and Ice budget has been depleted for FY15 and needs approval to get additional funding. It is possible that reimbursement may be available from the State if the appropriate criteria is met for the snowstorms. Brief discussion followed.

Ms. Hoffman moved that the Finance Committee approve deficit funding for the FY15 Snow and Ice Budget, as presented; Mr. Alessandri seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 9-0-0.

**Chairman’s Report:**

Chairman Rossi reported he attended the Selectmen’s meeting last week. There was discussion that the Town is taking over maintenance of all athletic fields.

**Clerk’s Report:**

Mr. Schroeder, Clerk, reported there was no change in the Finance Committee Reserve Fund account from the last report; there is still a balance of \$100,000.

**Liaison Reports:**

Ms. Hillery reported that she attended the last meeting of the Community Preservation Committee, but there was not a quorum, and the meeting was cancelled.

Mr. Ashok stated that the Medway Public Library has projected \$18,000 to prepare the extra room for use though there is no real plan for its use yet.

Mr. Alessandri reported that the School Department budget is in. He theorized that it is a level service budget for the most part. Discussion on technology needs, proposed class sizes, etc.

Ms. Hoffman reiterated that the Capital Improvement Planning Committee is interested in meeting with the Finance Committee at the March 11 meeting.

**Review of Minutes:**

Review of the meeting minutes from January 11, 2015 was postponed.

**At 8:42 PM Mr. O’Neill moved to adjourn; Ms. Hoffman seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 9-0-0.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanette Galliardt  
Night Board Secretary