

Finance Committee Meeting

May 9, 2018 7:30 PM EST
Veterans Memorial Building, Room 229
900 Main Street
Millis, MA 02054

In Attendance:

Craig Schultze, Chairman
Jodie Garzon, Vice Chairman
Peter Berube, Clerk
Jim Bullion
Peter Jurmain
Jerry Nunnaley
Doug Riley
James McCaffrey, Board of Selectmen Chairman
Catherine MacInnes, Board of Selectmen Vice Chairman

Craig Schultze called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM

Warrant Article Review and Recommendations:

Article #17 – Previously Approved School Bus Lease

Town Counsel confirmed that the motion at Town Meeting will correct any discrepancy in the wording of this article in the Warrant.

Jodie Garzon made a motion to recommend approval of Article #17, Previously Approved School Bus Lease in the amount of \$87,000.00; Pete Jurmain seconded. Vote: 7/0 motion carries unanimously.

Article #24 – Finance Director By-Law

The School Committee has agreed to the By-Law which would change the Finance Director's role; 1 Finance Director for both schools and municipal. The individual will be appointed by the Board of Selectmen and joint management of the position will be the Town Administrator and the School Superintendent. There will be Deputy Finance Director dedicated to the schools. The hope is to consolidate both the fiscal budget process and the MUNIS accounting system. This will streamline a lot of processes that may be duplicated with the current structure. The School Committee does have the option to opt out if they chose to in the future.

Jodie Garzon made a motion to recommend approval of Article #24, Finance Director By-Law; Pete Jurmain seconded. Vote: 7/0 motion carries unanimously.

Article #26 – Retail Marijuana Special Permit/Zoning

The Board of Selectmen supported this article with a 2-1 vote in favor of the Warrant's version of the article. The Retail Marijuana Committee voted 4-2 in favor of the Warrant's version of the article. The contention is part #2 which was revised due to the business opportunity presented to the town by 617 Therapeutic Health Center, Inc at the 1073 Main Street building. The business would cultivate marijuana for distribution throughout the state. A 5-year Host Agreement between the group and the town could result in \$750,000.00 over the life of the agreement. These revenues could be used for one-time capital items such as much needed road improvements. Other prospective revenues would be in Real Estate and Personal Property taxes as well as increases to Water and Sewer usage. These revenues could be used in the Annual Operating Budget.

One of the main concerns with this article is the potential odor that would be omitted by the cultivation facility. Cultivation of marijuana cannot be banned in Millis but can have zoning restrictions.

If this article fails at the May Town Meeting, it will be presented at the November Town Meeting. The moratorium approved last year will expire in December 2018 at which time if changes to the

town's by-laws have not been revised retail marijuana facilities, shops, etc. can operate anywhere in town.

Some committee members voiced their desire to have zero marijuana shops, etc. in town while others were skeptical of the proposed revenues a business such as 617 would generate. Although the facility is not highly visible from the street, having a marijuana facility in the "downtown" area could hurt the image of the town. If this by-law does not pass there would be time to create an Overlay District for the November Town Meeting. If this by-law is approved, it could be amended at the November Town Meeting.

Selectmen McCaffrey reemphasized there is no legal way for the town to ban retail marijuana sales or cultivation. 617 is a legitimate business in the state of Massachusetts. The by-law does not permit dispensing of marijuana at the 1073 Main Street location. The licensing for such facilities are regulated at the state level. This business would be a significant economic contribution to the town. He encouraged the Finance Committee to consider that aspect of the argument. Seniors at the Council of Aging have asked the Board of Selectmen to generate additional revenues to take the burden off the taxpayers; this is a prime opportunity.

Selectmen MacInnes spoke about her visit to another marijuana cultivation facility; the odor was only noticed while inside the building. The additional revenues would alleviate some of the constraints on funds for the Police, Fire and DPW departments. The business would also employ approximately 65 full-time employees who would frequent local restaurants and other businesses throughout town. She reminded the committee and meeting attendees that the town of Millis voted to legalize the sale of marijuana.

Pete Jurmain made a motion to recommend approval of Article #26, Retail Marijuana Special Permit/Zoning; Jodie Garzon seconded. Vote: 5/2 motion carries.

Article #27 – Retail Marijuana Limitation

This article would limit the number of marijuana establishments to be no more than the greater of one or 25% of the number of licenses issued by the town for the sale of alcoholic beverages. Once a by-law for retail marijuana is adopted the moratorium expires at that time; not in December.

Jodie Garzon made a motion to recommend approval of Article #27, Retail Marijuana Limitation on the condition that Article #26 passes, if Article #26 fails dismissal would be recommended; Craig Schultze seconded. Vote: 7/0 motion carries unanimously.

Article #28 – Retail Marijuana 3% Sales Tax

Jodie Garzon made a motion to recommend approval of Article #28, Retail Marijuana 3% Sales Tax; Pete Jurmain seconded. Vote: 7/0 motion carries unanimously.

Reassign Warrant Articles:

Doug Riley was assigned the following articles:

Article #13 – Community Preservation Committee (CPC) Funds

Article #14 – CPC – Digitization of Hindy Rosenfeld Collection

Article #15 – CPC – Currier & Ives Reprints Framing Project

Pre-Town Meeting:

Craig Schultze called Pre-Town Meeting to order at 8:39 PM; Jodie Garzon seconded:

Article #1 – Unpaid Bills

The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article in the amount of \$135.14.

Article #2 – FY18 Additional Wages and Expenses

The Finance Committee recommend dismissal of this article; it is not needed.

Article #3 – SEIU 888 & Firefighter Local 4704 Contract Ratification

The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article in the amount of \$55,000.00.

Article #4 – FY19 Operating Budget

The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article in the amount of \$30,898,428.98.

Article #5 – Sewer Enterprise Fund

The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article in the amount of \$1,181,050.75.

Article #6 – Water Enterprise Fund

The Finance Committee recommend approval of this article in the amount of \$1,099,601.98.

Article #7 – Stormwater Enterprise Fund

The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article in the amount of \$470,727.87.

Article #8 – Amendments to the Personnel Plan

The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article.

Article #9 – Independent Audit

The Finance Committee recommend approval of this article in the amount of \$36,000.00.

Article #10 – Board of Health Appointing Authority

The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article.

Article #11 – Revolving Funds

The Finance Committee recommend approval of this article.

Article #12 – Capital Items

The capital items listed in Article #12 will be voted as one article:

Town Buildings HVAC for Gymnasium:	\$107,000.00
IT/Data Processing Infrastructure:	\$ 11,000.00
Fire ALS Equipment:	\$ 40,537.00
Fire ALS Medications and Equipment:	\$ 14,761.00
Fire Department Vehicle:	\$ 51,872.00
School Purchase School Bus:	\$ 45,000.00
School Auditorium Repairs:	\$ 90,000.00
School Varsity Baseball Field Repairs:	\$ 60,000.00
School Restroom Upgrade:	\$ 40,000.00
Town Fuel Dispense System:	\$ 50,000.00
DPW Excavator:	\$ 56,253.00
Council on Aging Community Room Upgrade:	\$ 15,100.00
Council on Aging Van:	<u>\$ 15,000.00</u>
Total:	<u>\$596,523.00</u>

This article funds many different capital items the town departments and school need at this time. Amounts for each item can be amended however new items cannot be added. The borrowing to fund the article is a typical short term borrowing unlike the borrowing for the Library, Police and Fire Stations. Fortunately, Representative Linsky has secured \$50,000.00 to fund the Council on Aging Van. This allows for \$15,000.00 to not be borrowed or to redirect the funds to another item on the list. The committee discussed redirecting the \$15,000.00 to the School Auditorium Repairs item to update the Audio System.

Jerry Nunnaley made a motion to recommend redirecting \$15,000.00 from Council on Aging Van to School Auditorium Repairs; Pete Jurmain seconded. Vote: 7/0 motion carries unanimously.

Article #13 – Community Preservation Committee (CPC) Funds

The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article

Article #14 – CPC – Digitization of Hindy Rosenfeld Collection

The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article

Article #15 – CPC – Carrier & Ives Reprints Framing Project
The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article

Article #16 – Revaluation FY19
The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article.

Article #17 – Previously Approved School Bus Lease
The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article.

Article #18 – Previously Approved Computer Lease
The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article.

Article #19 – School – Medicaid
The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article.

Article #20 – OPEB Funding
The Finance Committee recommends dismissal of this article.

Article #21 – Replenish Stabilization Fund
The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article in the amount of \$233,013.00.

Article #22 – Capital Planning Committee ByLaw
The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article.

Article #23 – DPW Director ByLaw
The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article.

Article #24 – Finance Director ByLaw
The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article.

Article #25 – Release of Drainage Easement at Acorn Street
The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article.

Article #26 – Retail Marijuana Special Permit/Zoning
The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article.

Article #27 – Retail Marijuana Limitation
on the condition that Article #26 passes, if Article #26 fails dismissal would be recommended.

Article #28 – Retail Marijuana 3% Sales Tax
The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article.

Article #29 – Site Evaluation & Preliminary Design – Walnut Street Pump Station
The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article in the amount of \$10,000.00.

Article #30 – Board of Selectmen Report – Unfunded Capital Project Request
The Finance Committee accepts the report.

Article #31 – Citizen's Petition – Town Clerk Stipend Increase/Full Time Elected Official
The Finance Committee recommends dismissal of this article.

Craig Schultze made a motion to close Pre-Town Meeting at 9:24 PM; Jodie Garzon seconded.

Old Business/New Business:

Jodie Garzon made a motion to approve payment to Our Town Publishing for printing of the Finance Committee Report in the amount of \$3,240.00; Doug Riley seconded. Vote: 7/0 motion carries unanimously.

Minutes Approval:

Jodie Garzon made a motion to recommend approval of the April 25, 2018 Meeting Minutes as written; Pete Jurmain seconded. Vote: 6/0 1 abstained, motion carries.

Adjourn:

Jerry Nunnaley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 PM; Pete Jurmain seconded. Vote 7/0 motion carries unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Deirdre Gilmore

DRAFT