

Finance Committee Minutes
Guidance Room, North Reading High School
June 6, 2011

Present: Mr. Kelliher, Ms. Hurlbut, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Veneziano , Mr. Pulver, Mr. Kirby, and Mr. Blanchette

Absent: Mr. Wolpin, and Mr. Mastascusa

Guests: Mr. Tassone, Finance Director, Sean Delaney, Board of Selectman & Town Counsel Darren Kline, from Kopleman & Page

Mr. Kelliher, Chairman, brought the meeting to order at 6:09 pm.

Because Article 25 – Accept Cross Access Easement Agreement Elm Street Property failed to pass at the October Town Meeting the Finance Committee should have given prior approval before it could go before Town Meeting again.

Mr. Kirby moved to allow Article 25 to be included in the June 2011 Town Meeting. Mr. Pulver seconded the motion. Discussion: Mr. Kirby asked if there is any reason why this Article should be held off until the fall. There was no response. **Voted: 7-0**

Mr. Kline, argued that Section 8 says that Town will not prohibit access through Wright Street of commercial vehicles. He said the issue is if the owners, down the line, could interpret that to give approval to operate commercial vehicles. Mr. Kline said the key word is “access” not use; ie, Sears appliance brought to a house by a commercial vehicle. Only the Zoning Board of Appeals can approve a variance to operate a commercial business. Mr. Delaney, Board of Selectmen, said that the Smiths are running a business now. He agrees that approval of the Article doesn’t give them approval to run a business but may give them further credence for approval if the Town were to try to stop them from doing business.

Mr. Kelliher asked what the downside would be if it weren’t approved. Mr. Delaney said the Town wouldn’t be able to use the bridges for access. He said the LUC wants to put trails in eventually, but they are not in a rush. He said the land was purchased with the understanding that there was not complete access. Mr. Kelliher asked what the downside would be to Mrs. Smith. Mr. Delaney said, none. Mr. Kline said that Mrs. Smith will not eliminate the language from saying “Smith Property” and hasn’t come up with an alternative. Mr. Kirby asked if the Town is in any different position than last fall. Mr.

Delaney said, no difference but LUC would want to push through the Article – it may be passed over. Mr. Veneziano said he would like things “airtight”. Mr. Blanchette said nothing has changed his mind from being against it. Mr. Kirby said nothing has changed since last fall. Ms. Hurlbut said the Article is for access not use. She said Mrs. Smith may withdraw the offer or want to change it. Members decided to wait to vote at Town Meeting.

Members reviewed Articles not voted on yet.

Special Town Meeting Article 1 – FY2011 Budget Amendment - \$9,500 to be transferred to the Police Salary budget for retroactive pay from 3-1-01 to 6-30-11.

Ms. Hurlbut moved to approve Article 1 and to amend the budget by \$9,500. Mr. Pulver seconded the motion, and it was voted unanimously in favor.

Article 4 – Authorize Treasurer to Enter into Compensating Balance Agreements – The Little School bond was called and Mr. Tassone plans to use MSBA money.

Ms. Hurlbut moved to transfer \$276,328.46 into Capital Stabilization Fund. Mr. Kirby seconded the motion, and it was voted unanimously in favor.

Ms. Hurlbut moved to approve the transfer of \$490,790, that portion of Parks & Recreation. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion, and it was voted unanimously in favor.

Ms. Hurlbut moved to transfer \$4,000 into Solid Waste Management Fund as outlined in Article 11. Mr. Kirby seconded the motion, and it was voted unanimously in favor.

Ms. Hurlbut moved to transfer \$36,757 from Free Cash and \$40,000 from Pensions and Benefits into the Stabilization Fund. Mr. Veneziano seconded the motion, and it was voted unanimously in favor.

Article 15 – Transfer Funds to Other Post Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund

Ms. Hurlbut moved to transfer \$5,000 into Other Post Employment Benefits. Mr. Blanchette seconded the motion. Discussion: Mr. Kirby feels that the Town treats this item as discretionary and should put more funds in and more often. **Voted 6-1, Mr. Kirby against**

Mr. Kirby and Mr. Blanchette’s terms are ending and due to personal and business time commitments, they will not be continuing with the Finance Committee. They both expressed their pleasure on being a part of the Committee.

The meeting continued into Town Meeting at 6:55 PM.

At Town Meeting the amount for approval under Article 8 – FY2012 Operating Budget was changed to \$51,189,520 due to a miscalculation.

Article 10 – Retirement Obligations – the fund amount reduced to \$395,000.

Mr. Kirby moved to approve the amended amount of \$395,000. Mr. Pulver seconded the motion, and it was voted unanimously in favor.

Mr. Kirby moved to approve the amended amount of \$4,000 in Article 14. Ms. Hurlbut seconded the motion, and it was voted unanimously in favor.

Ms. Hurlbut moved to approve Article 25 – Accept Cross Access Easement Agreement Elm Street Property. Mr. Pulver seconded the motion, and it was voted 3-0-4, Mr. Pulver, Ms. Hurlbut, and Mr. Kelliher in favor.

Town Meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM

Approved _____ Dated _____