

Finance Committee  
North Reading Town Hall, Room 5  
Wednesday, September 18, 2013

Present: Mr. Pulver, Mr. Wolpin, Mr. Duffy, Mr. Koppelman, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Veneziano

Absent: Ms. Hurlbut, Mr. Kelliher, and Mr. Kirby

Guest: Ms. Pavao and Mr. Carnevale, DPW Director

Acting Chair, Mr. Pulver, brought the meeting to order at 7:10 pm

Mr. Carnevale said he has a prioritized list of work to be done to town buildings. Items such as the fire station café, fourth floor of the library and the Old Meeting House have first priority and whatever money is left will go toward flooring.

Ms. Pavao advised members that they will go into Town Meeting with \$512,000 in Free Cash. Actual uncertified free cash is \$1,192,510.

**Town Meeting articles:**

**Mr. Wolpin moved to approve Article 8, *Appropriate Funds for Improvements to Town Hall and Other Municipal Buildings*, seconded by Mr. Duffy; and voted 6-0.**

**Mr. Wolpin moved to pass over Article 9, *Additional Funding for Town Road Program*, seconded by Mr. Veneziano; and voted 6-0.**

Mr. Carnevale said that he has a list of the unaccepted streets in town and is taking the longest one first.

**Mr. Duffy moved to recommend Article 10, *Fund Town Road Survey Services*, Mr. Johnson seconded the motion; and it was voted 6-0.**

**Mr. Wolpin moved to recommend Articles 20 – 29, inclusively, seconded by Mr. Veneziano; and voted 6-0.**

**Mr. Duffy moved to recommend Article 2, *Prior Year Bills*, in the amount of \$861, to be paid from Free Cash. Mr. Veneziano seconded the motion; and it was voted 6-0.**

Article 3 is to Fund FY2013 Snow and Ice Deficit. Ms. Pavao explained that the snow and ice deficit in June was higher than \$250,000. She said the town hopes to get in approximately \$139,000 in FEMA money. If the money doesn't come in on time for Town Meeting she believes the article will be passed over. The current balance is \$262,639.04, \$300,000 will be transferred into that, making a balance of \$562,639.04 if the article is passed. Members will make their recommendation at Town Meeting.

**Mr. Wolpin moved to recommend Article 4, *Transfer Funds to Capital Improvement Stabilization Fund*, and transfer the sum of \$300,000, funds to come from Free Cash, seconded by Mr. Veneziano; and voted 6-0.**

**Mr. Wolpin moved to approve Article 5, *Appropriate Money to Stabilization Fund*, and transfer the sum of \$110,000 from Free Cash into the fund. Mr. Duffy seconded the motion; and it was voted 6-0.**

Members discussed Article 6, Transfer Funds to Other Post Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund. Mr. Wolpin and Mr. Koppelman thought it would be better to put some money into the account while Mr. Johnson and Mr. Duffy felt other liabilities could be satisfied and money in this fund would just be a drop in the bucket. It was said that Board of Selectmen are choosing to pass over. Mr. Pulver said there is a plan in the making and possibly the Finance Committee could be a part of it.

**Mr. Duffy moved to pass over Article 6, seconded by Mr. Johnson; and it was voted 6-0.**

The dollar amounts for some of the items approved at June 2013 Town Meeting have changed and Article 7 proposes to approve additional funds for those items, such as; Employee Benefits – County Retirement \$80,744 (the amount due came in late), Animal Control – personal services \$5,482.78 (two animal control officers were required to be certified and will now be paid \$15 an hour with benefits) and Elder Services – Personal Services \$703.81, part-time position going full-time.

**Mr. Wolpin moved to recommend Article 7, *Amend FY2014 Operating Budget*, seconded by Mr. Johnson; and it was voted 6-0.**

Mr. Pulver outlined Ms. McKnight, Planning Administrator, and the CPC's presentation at the Board of Selectmen's informational hearing. Mr. Wolpin also went to the meeting and didn't feel the Town would get much benefit from being part of the North of Boston Regional Shared Housing Project. Mr. Wolpin didn't feel Ms. McKnight was behind it. Mr. Johnson said that North Reading is different from the other towns involved because the other towns have public transportation.

**Mr. Wolpin moved to not recommend Article 11, *Appropriate Money for North of Boston Regional Shared Housing Project*, Mr. Veneziano seconded the motion; and it was voted 6-0.**

**Mr. Veneziano moved to not recommend Article 12, *Appropriate Money for Design and Feasibility Study for Municipal Solar Installation*, Mr. Duffy seconded the motion; and it was voted 6-0.**

Within the discussion for Article 13, it was noted that there would be a small cost for battery maintenance.

**Mr. Duffy moved to recommend Article 13, *Appropriate Money for Purchase of AED's for Municipal Buildings*, seconded by Mr. Johnson; and it was voted 6-0.**

Mr. Wolpin explained the Board of Selectmen's feelings on Article 14 from the informational hearing and suggested that more information was to come at Town Meeting.

**Mr. Johnson moved to not recommend Article 14, *Appropriate Funds for Management Consultant*, seconded by Mr. Duffy; and it was voted 6-0.**

Members decided to make their recommendation on Article 15, Amend Code-Zoning Bylaws – Retaining Walls, Special Permit Required, at Town Meeting.

**Mr. Duffy moved to pass over Article 16, *Amend Code – Zoning Bylaws Article XVII, Site Plan Review, Section 200-99, Appeals*, seconded by Mr. Koppelman; and it was voted 6-0.**

**Mr. Wolpin moved to recommend Articles 17, 18 & 19, seconded by Mr. Duffy; and it was voted 6-0.**

#### **New Business**

Mr. Koppelman mentioned that members should visit the new development in Lynnfield. He said he has tried to talk with the Board of Selectmen about it. He thought it would be a good example for North Reading to follow.

**Mr. Veneziano moved to adjourn at 9:15 pm, seconded by Mr. Duffy; and it was voted unanimously in favor.**

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, prior to Town Meeting in the School Guidance Room.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_