



Town of Stow FINANCE COMMITTEE

Town Building - 380 Great Road
Stow, Massachusetts 01775-2127

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Approved
Minutes
March 22, 2016

Members Present:

Peter McManus, Chair (PM)
Richard Eckel (RE)
Werner Fritz (WF)
Bruce Walbridge (BW)

Others Present:

Kathleen Farrell, Administrative Assistant
Ron Eld, IT Director (7:30pm – 8:35pm)
Mark Jones, Nashoba Regional School Committee Member (8:40pm – 9:30pm)

Call to Order: 7:30pm

Continuation of public hearing to review department budget requests and Warrant for Annual Town Meeting

Reserve Fund Transfer Request

Request from the Office of the Board of Selectmen to cover the cost of printing - in budgeting for FY 16 printing costs for two Special town Meetings were not anticipated.

7:40pm BW moved to approve request of \$1,200

WF second, unanimous support

Review Department Budgets

Information Technology

Ron Eld, Director of Technology gave a summary of his concerns with the existing testing and back-up services for the Town's computer systems.

RE – asked about strategy working with development of new fire station and community center

Ron Eld explained that this proposal would meet the immediate need for business continuity, as public services have certain confidentiality requirements. The proposal is a combination of services that is a first step in meeting the Town's information technology needs.

RE – questioned why we would buy and not rent software for flexibility. Ron Eld reasoned it was cost effective with a one-time set-up fee.

PM – asked if there had been a hardware inventory – IT Director will not be concerned about the hardware for some time.

Committee reviewed entire IT budget and discussed increased cost of modernization of the systems.

Nashoba Regional School District

Mark Jones delivered and reviewed Preliminary Budget Assessment
Reviewed budget drivers of requested FY17 Operating Budget – no new personnel
OPEB on as a line-item with intention to increase year after year

Voting Recommendations

Finance Committee reviewed draft warrant dated 3/18/16 Consent Calendar
The Finance Committee recommends support of the Consent Calendar

Article 6 Audit of Financial Records

The Finance Committee recommends approval of this expenditure as both sound financial control and as a state requirement.

Article 7 Revolving Fund for Inspection Fees

The Finance Committee recommends support of this revolving fund. This allows the inspectors to be paid from fees collected in the current year. It is revenue neutral.

Article 8 Revolving Fund for Advanced Life Support Services

The Finance Committee recommends support of this revolving fund. This allows the Fire Department to manage payments from fees collected in the current year. It is revenue neutral.

Article 9 SwiftReach 911 Notification System

The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article.

Article 32.3 Replace Engine 17

The Finance Committee recommends approval of this Article. Engine 17 is a 24 year old truck which has exceeded its expected life span.

Article 32.4 Rebuild Engine 12 Pump

The Finance Committee recommends approval of this Article. The pump is still functioning but has failed its testing this year. Rebuilding the pump is a cost effective way of extending the life of a very expensive piece of equipment.

Article 32.5 Rebuild Engine 15 Pump

The Finance Committee recommends approval of this Article. The pump is still functioning but has failed its testing this year. Rebuilding the pump is a cost effective way of extending the life of a very expensive piece of equipment.

Article 32.6 Highway Dump Truck

The Finance Committee recommends approval of this Article.

Article 32.7 Maura Drive Reconstruction

The Finance Committee recommends approval of this Article.

Article 32.8 Carriage Lane Reconstruction

The Finance Committee recommends approval of this Article.

Article 32.9 Highway Radar Speed Limit Signs

The Finance Committee recommends approval of this Article.

Article 32.10 Town Building Generator Electrical Panel

The Finance Committee recommends approval of this Article.

Article 32.11 *The Finance Committee recommends approval of this Article.*

Article 32.12 *The Finance Committee recommends approval of Article 32, number 12.
The Planning Board needs funds appropriated to fund sidewalk construction.*

Article 32.13 *The Finance Committee recommends approval of Article 32, number 13*

Article 32.14 *The Finance Committee recommends approval of Article 32, number 14*

Article 33 (Minuteman High School Building Project Vote to Bond under MGL CG71
Sec. 16(d) - *The Finance Committee will make a recommendation at
Town Meeting May 2, 2016*

Article 34 Transfer to OPEB Trust Fund

The Finance Committee recommends approval of Article 34.

Article 35 Transfer from MWPAT (Harvard Acres Wells) Loan Receipts

The Finance Committee recommends approval of this Article.

Article 36 Audit of Financial Records

The Finance Committee recommends approval of this Article.

Article 37 Election Ballot Tabulator

The Finance Committee recommends approval of this Article.

Article 38 Laserfiche Software

The Finance Committee recommends approval of this Article

Article 39 Assabet Regional Assessment FY17

The Finance Committee recommends approval of this Article

Article 40 Water Holes

The Finance Committee recommends approval of this Article

Article 41 Police Station Repairs

The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article.

Article 42 Economic Development and Industrial Commission (EDIC)
The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article. This article is provide administration funds

Article 43 Lake Boon Water Quality Remediation
The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article. These funds are Stow's share of the total cost of weed control on Lake Boon. Hudson share to be Fifteen Thousand Dollars.

ARTICLE 44 Improvement of Recreational Facilities at Pine Bluff Recreational Area
The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article. This revenue neutral article transfers CPC funds already appropriated to the Recreation Commission in consultation with the CPC.

ARTICLE45 Design Funds For Historic Randall Library Building
The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article

ARTICLE 46 Mapping of Lower Village and Hillside Cemeteries
The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article

ARTICLE 47 Acquisition of Open Space
The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article

Article 48 Acceptance of Adams Drive Sidewalk Easement from Crown Castle Properties, LLC
The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article

Article 49 Acceptance of Wheeler Road Sidewalk Easement from Crown Castle Properties, LLC
The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article

Article 51 Balance Budget
The Finance Committee recommends approval of this Article

10:50pm Public Hearing adjourned

Other Business: Next Meeting April 26, 2016

10:52pm Meeting adjourned