

Sturbridge Finance Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
April 12, 2012  
Town Hall  
7:00 pm

Meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm with the following members present: Kevin Smith (KS), Mike Serio (MS), Joni Light (JL), Larry Morrison (LM), Prescott Arndt (SA) and Patti Affenito (PA). Members absent: Arnold Wilson (AW).

**Reserve Fund Transfer:** KS notes a Reserve Fund Transfer needs to be made in the amount of \$575. JL makes a motion to approve this transfer, MS seconds. Vote 6-0-0.

KS tells the board there are two vacancies: Mary Redetzke was elected to the BOS and Rich Volpe resigned his position.

**Line Item Budget:** Council on Aging (pg. 11): KS notes that line 127 needs to be reconsidered because the \$1,000 for transportation for seniors is not included in the amount. LM makes a motion to reconsider, MS seconds. Vote 5-0-1. LM makes a motion to approve line 127 for \$3,370, MS seconds. PA asks the purpose of this increase; KS answers that it is to pay for transportation of seniors to ATMs and Town elections. Vote 6-0-0.

**Special Town Meeting Warrant (March 30, Revision 2):**

**Article 66 Transfer of Funds – Landfill/Leachate Removal:** KS says that this transfer, if approved, will result in a Free Cash balance of \$137,000, but he says that Article 67 will increase the balance to approximately \$487,000 since it is a transfer to Free Cash.

**Article 69 Sturbridge Police Association Contract:** KS tells the board that this solidifies the Quinn Bill portion of the dept. salaries. He goes on to say that going forward the Town will now fund 100% of this benefit for officers. SA points out that he was not aware of the fact that the Town will now pay a higher percentage. KS has not seen the contract. MS asks if the total cost to the Town is known, KS answers that for FY11 it was \$103,739; of this amount \$5,800 came from the State. KS asks SA to get more details if possible. SA does say that retention is an important goal for the Chief. KS agrees saying he also heard this, but also says that perhaps the Quinn Bill will level the playing field in keeping trained officers from leaving Sturbridge for higher paying positions elsewhere.

**Article 67 Transfer to Free Cash:** KS would like to see tighter language regarding the actual amount of this transfer. LM asks if it a placeholder, KS does not know. JL asks about the sponsors of this article and says that they must be aware if there are expenses that will be applied against this amount. KS will ask the Finance Director if there a more definite number since the Town Moderator will only allow about 10% lee-way, if this number changes.

### **Article 66 Transfer of Funds – Landfill/Leachate Removal:**

JL asks what the \$55,000 will pay for? KS responds that it pays outstanding bills and will cover the cost of hauling the leachate until June 30, 2012. MS makes a motion to approve the article as written, SA seconds. Vote 6-0-0.

New Business:

On April 17, the CPC will present their budget, and on April 19, the Planning Board and the Town Planner will be present.

MS asks about the Chapter 90 funds (roads program) since it is not in the line item budget. KS says that BOS have authority over this program and he believes that there is about \$1,600,000 in the account. MS says that this money came up with respect to a drainage study for the Walker Pond neighborhood a few years ago but no warrant article ever addressed the study. MS goes on to ask if the money can be used for repairs, KS is not sure. SA notes that these funds were used to pay for the brick sidewalks.

LM offers his services as a proof-reader for the essays at the front of the Town Report. LM also asks KS to consider appealing to voters in his opening statements at the ATM and strongly encouraging them to read the information in the front of the book, going so far as to give page numbers; because he says that the local papers do not offer this information.

Motion to adjourn at 7:45 pm.