

**Town of Sturbridge
Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 3, 2013**

Attendees: Kevin Smith (KS), Patricia Affenito (PA), Prescott Arndt (SA), Mike Serio (MS), Virginia Stallone (VS), Arnold Wilson (AW)

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

The Finance Committee attended the Planning Board's public hearing for Article 33 – Proposed Moratorium Non-Municipal Solar PV. Members of the Finance Committee asked questions related to the article to the article's proponents, the Planning Board and the Town Planner. The members also attended the continuance of the Planning Board's public hearing for Article 34 – Citizen Petition Zoning Bylaw Amendment Solar Facilities.

AW made a motion to amend the Article 33 as follows:

in Section 28.1 – Purpose, first paragraph, amend the sentence “Currently there are no large scale wind, or ground-mounted solar photovoltaic, energy systems in Town although a municipal solar photovoltaic installation is being purposely planned for industrial-zoned, publicly-owned property along a state highway corridor.” to read, “Currently there are no large scale wind energy systems or large scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations in Town although a municipal solar photovoltaic installation is being purposely planned for industrial-zoned, publicly-owned property along a state highway corridor.”;

in Section 28.2 – Temporary Moratorium, remove the following language, “unless such facility is to be developed with the direct involvement of the Town of Sturbridge in the actual development of same, either as the property owner or as the consumer of the power to be generated”;

add section 28.3 – Definitions that reads:

28.3 - Definitions

Large Scale Solar Photovoltaic System or Installation: A large scale solar photovoltaic system or installation is defined as a ground-mounted solar facility that has a total rated nameplate capacity equal to or greater than 100kw/0.1MW. It includes the equipment, machinery and structures utilized in connection with the conversion of solar energy into electrical power not to include those accessory to single or two family residential use as a means to provide energy for that dwelling.

Large Scale Wind Energy System or Installation: A large scale wind energy system or installation is defined as a wind system or installation that has the capacity equal to or greater than 30kw/.03MW.;

and otherwise approve the article as written;

seconded by PA. Voted 4 – 2.

KS made a motion on to amend Article 34 as follows:

in Section 3.1, remove the reference to section “.2” and replace it with “2”;

in Section 3.2 subsection 9, remove the reference to subsection “.5.4” and replace it with “5.4”;

in Section 3.6 subsection b, remove the last sentence and replace it with the following, “Large scale solar photovoltaic facilities shall not be used for displaying any advertising.”;

in Section 5.1, remove the reference to section “.5.3” and replace it with “5.3”;

in Section 5.3, remove the reference to section “4.5.2” and replace it with “5.2”;

and otherwise approve the article as written;

seconded by VS. Voted 6 – 0.

AW made a motion to have the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to establish a program to allow veterans who qualify for participation to volunteer to provide services to the Town in exchange for a reduction in their real estate tax bills. The program to be in compliance with Massachusetts General Law c. 59 section 5N and presented to the Town for adoption at the next Annual or Special Town Meeting. The program must include: qualifications for participation; limits on hourly rates; maximum abatement amount; income limits; limits of program cost; and method of administration and oversight for Article 35 - Accept MGL c. 59, §5N to Authorize Establishment of a Veteran’s Volunteer Service Program. Motion seconded by PA. Motion defeated 3 – 3.

SA made a motion to approve the article as written for Article 35 - Accept MGL c. 59, §5N to Authorize Establishment of a Veteran’s Volunteer Service Program; seconded by MS. Voted 5 – 1.

SA made a motion to see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of TEN THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$10,000.00) to the 8 Brookfield Road Purchase of Services account (#11985-52000) to be used for asbestos abatement at 8 Brookfield Road, or take any action in relation thereto for Article 41 – Transfer of Funds 8 Brookfield Road; seconded by MS. Voted 6 – 0.

AW made a motion to provide our recommendation at the Special Town Meeting for Article 45 – Fund Building Department Operations; seconded by SA. Voted 6 – 0.

AW made a motion to see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$1,800.00) to the Town Planner Supplies/Expenses account (#11752-54000) in order to fund the purchase of a laptop computer and related software for the Town Planner, or take any action in relation thereto for Article 47 – Transfer of Funds Town Planner Laptop Computer; seconded by MS. Voted 6 – 0.

AW made a motion to transfer \$4,934.00 from the Reserve Fund (#19102-57800) to the Safety Complex Supplies account (#11972-54000) to purchase an air conditioning unit for the Fire Department server room; seconded by MS. Voted 6 – 0.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 AM on January 4, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. Smith