

**Town of Sturbridge
Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 30, 2013**

Attendees: Kevin Smith (KS), Patti Affenito (PA), Scott Arndt (SA), Bob Jepson (BJ), Joni Light (JL), Laurance Morrison (LM) @ 7:17 PM, Kathy Neal (KN), Arnold Wilson (AW)

Guests: Penny Dumas, Chair, Community Preservation Committee (CPC); Carol Goodwin (CPC); Bob Briere

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM in the Town Hall.

The Finance Committee met with the members of the CPC to discuss the various article brought forth by the CPC.

For Article 48 – Riverlands, JL made a motion to approve the article as written; seconded by AW. KS made a motion to amend the article by replacing the word “and” with a “,” (comma) between property and preparing; also adding the words “and commencing remediation” after Department of Environmental Protection; seconded by AW. Amended motion voted 8 – 0; Article voted, 8 – 0.

For Article 49 – Conservation Restrictions, AW made a motion to see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of TEN THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$10,200.00) from the Community Preservation Act Fund with the goal of conveying conservation restrictions on certain CPA funded, Town-owned parcels known as the Riverlands property (located at 51 Holland Road, 55 Holland Road, and 52 Stallion Hill Road), the Heins Farm (located at 200 Leadmine Road), Long Pond (located at 55 Champeaux Road), and the Shepard property (located at 80 Route 15), for the purposes of assessing their conservation values and working with consultants and non-profit organizations with respect to the said properties and to authorize the Board of Selectmen and/or the Conservation Commission, as appropriate, to convey the conservation restrictions on the foregoing parcels of land in accordance with G.L. c. 184, as required by G.L. c. 44B, §12(a); or take any action in relation thereto; seconded by BJ. So voted, 8 – 0.

For Article 10 – Water Department, BJ made a motion to approve the article as written; seconded by KN. So voted, 7 – 0 – 1.

For Article 11 – Sewer Department, AW made a motion to approve the article as written; seconded by BJ. Motion defeated, 4 – 4.

For Article 16 – Betterment, JL made a motion to approve the article as written; seconded by BJ. Motion defeated, 3 – 5.

For Article 16 – Betterment, SA makes a motion that the Betterment Committee’s original recommendation be adopted as the Finance Committee’s; seconded by KN. So voted, 8 – 0.

For Article 17 – Capital Improvement, SA makes a motion to approve the article as written; seconded by BJ. So voted, 8 – 0.

For Article 20 – Stabilization, SA makes a motion to approve the article as written; seconded by PA. So voted, 8 – 0.

For Article 21 – Tax Rate Relief, AW makes a motion to approve the article as written; seconded by BJ. So voted, 8 – 0.

During a discussion of Article 24 – Renewable Energy, the Finance Committee expressed concerns about the article missing a sunset provision; the certification/verification of Blue Wave Capital; plus, the Town should abide the existing moratorium on solar energy construction.

For Article 24 – Renewable Energy, AW makes a motion to take no action on the article; seconded by LM. So voted, 8 – 0.

During a discussion of Article 25 – PILOT, the Finance Committee expressed concerns about the lack of specific terms; what are the sums involved; term of years; is the beneficiary a non-profit organization.

For Article 25 – PILOT, AW makes a motion to take no action on the article; seconded by KN. So voted, 8 – 0.

For Article 51 – Unpaid FY12 Bills, JL made a motion to approve the article as written; seconded by BJ. LM made a motion to amend the article by replacing the word “to” with a “from” after the word invoice and before the phrase “the Hampshire Council of Governments”; also adding the words “and commencing remediation” after Department of Environmental seconded by SA. Amended motion voted 8 – 0; Article voted, 7 – 1.

For Article 52 – Transfer from Free Cash, AW makes a motion to approve the article as written; seconded by BJ. Motion defeated, 1 – 7.

For Article 52 – Transfer from Free Cash, KS makes a motion to take no action on the article; seconded by KN. So voted, 7 – 0 – 1.

For Article 53 – Sewer Department Costs, BJ makes a motion to approve the article as written; seconded by PA. So voted, 7 – 1.

The Finance Committee discussed its concerns about Article 54 – Civil Fingerprinting. Among the issues discussed were the lack of criteria for a simple Yes/No from the Police Department; the lack of an appeal process; no mention of the disposition of the records/history; does the article apply only initially or for renewals.

For Article 54 – Civil Fingerprinting, JL makes a motion to take no action on the article; seconded by KN. So voted, 7 – 1.

Motion made to adjourn at 10:55 PM by BJ; seconded by JL. So voted, 8 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. Smith