

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
Town Hall ~ April 25, 2017
Sturbridge, MA

Call to Order:

The chair called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. The following committee members were present: Kathleen Neal (KN), James Waddick (JW), Joni Light (JL), Larry Morrison (LM), Mike Hager (MH), Jared Burns (JB), and Michael Serio (MS). Bruce Boyson (BB) joined at 7:06pm.

Guests: Kevin Filchak (KF), Brian Amedy (BA), Tom Chamberland (TC), Jamie Terry (JT)

KN opened the meeting with a moment of silence to observe the passing of Finance Committee member, Suzanne Smiley.

Sturbridge Tourist Association – Kevin Filchak, Brian Amedy, Tom Chamberland

The Sturbridge Tourist Association (STA) presented their warrant to the committee. Notable changes include the removal of funding of the Information Center allowing for new STA initiatives to be considered. Such initiatives include an STA-sponsored festival still in discussion, as well as Sturbridge Business Breakfasts and specific STA advertisements available to Sturbridge businesses. KN asked for more information on the advertisement budget. KF explained that the STA has expanded its use of social media, such as Twitter, and their website. Additionally, they are still sponsoring advertising for businesses in a local tourism booklet giving businesses a discounted rate of advertisement cost. KF continued that the STA is looking for events to sponsor and explained the application process for receiving STA funds for other businesses, such as Pintastic and GeoFest.

JB asked about the PanMass Challenge and if any initiative has been made to include the town more proactively. KF confirmed they will be considering ways to make it more of a celebratory event for the town. JL asked about the funding of the Chamber Tourist Phone and why the STA was funding the Chamber of Commerce phone charges. BA explained that it was an “800” number that the town had initiated years past, and that the Chamber of Commerce Director, Alix McNitt, rationalized that the phone was for Sturbridge only. It may or may not be funded going forward.

KF confirmed to the committee that he would send information regarding upcoming events in the future.

Board of Health – Jamie Terry

MS explained that he invited the Board of Health (BOH) to further explain their personnel request to increase the hours of the inspector to full time. JT had performed a thorough review of the inspection process and the challenges it generates. She presented details of her study to the committee, including state requirements and the processes followed if violations are detected.

The committee discussed various scenarios of funding for additional hours and the effects it would have on the inspector and agent if funding was approved for 30 hours v. 35 hours.

JT confirmed that the BOH has a warrant article drafted for additional legal fees for the Casella suit and the Southbridge Landfill.

Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles Review

JL moved the motion to approve Article 54 – Unpaid Bills of a Previous Fiscal Year as written, MS seconds, motion accepted 8-0-0.

JL moved the motion to approve Article 55 – Transfer of Free Cash Roads Fund as written, JW seconds, motion

accepted 8-0-0.

MS moved the motion to approve Article 56 – Rescind Prior Borrowing Authorizations as written, LM seconds, motion accepted 8-0-0.

JB moved the motion to approve Article 57 – Create Capital Stabilization Fund as written, MS seconds, motion accepted 8-0-0.

JB moved the motion to approve Article 58 – Capital Stabilization Fund Transfer as written, JW seconds, motion accepted 8-0-0.

JW moved the motion to approve Article 59 – Free Cash Transfer Snow and Ice Deficit written, JB seconds, motion accepted 8-0-0.

Hold on Article 60 for more information regarding the cost of servers and what it includes. KN said she would get this information as well as details on the two TIF articles.

No Old/New Business and No Public Access

JL moved the motion to adjourn at 9:27pm; JB seconds. Meeting adjourned.

/jml