

**Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
Town Hall ~ May 4, 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), Joni Light (JL), Michael Serio (MS), James Waddick (JW) Jared Burns (JB), Bruce Boyson (BB).

Absent: Larry Morrison (LM), Mike Hager (MH)

Guests: Jai Patel (JP), Andre Cormier, Sr. (AC), Andre Cormier, Jr. (ACo)

Discussion on Article 42 – Jai Patel

The meeting opened with discussion on the Village Gateway District Citizen's Petition. JP brought several maps showing the proposed changes to the roads, as well as the building being done on his lot. This petition is only to allow the change for the Village District Gateway District which at this point consists only of his property. This article is looking to amend the zoning requirements to allow for a Fast-Casual Restaurant with a drive thru window. The business he is looking to bring in requires a drive thru window on any new restaurant locations. If this article passes at town meeting a special permit will still be required by the planning board. JP indicated that he would work to ensure any changes to the property layout is aimed at pedestrian safety and the best traffic flow possible.

Discussion on Article 7 – Andre Cormier, Sr., and Andre Cormier, Jr.

Developers for the property listed on Article 7 answered questions for the committee. AC provided maps for the proposed 40+ house lots, which includes the acreage that would be donated to the town for open space. It includes "buffer zones" of acreages to remain green and wooded to address potential drainage or other water issues. There is also additional acreage at the perimeter of the property that would be donated to the town. Homes are expected to be priced between \$500K and \$1M, and lots will be approximately 2 to 5 acres. AC made it known on several instances that conservation is an important consideration for every opportunity he has undertaken.

Review of Line Item Budget Changes

KN had the revised figures for the Burgess Education line item. An incremental reduction of \$100,000.00 was approved by the Burgess School Committee. The reductions include a \$25,000.00 reduction for special education tuition due to a recent change; \$25,000.00 in teacher salary reduced due to maternity; and a \$50,000.00 reduction that will be covered by funds from the Extended Day revolving fund.

JW moved the motion to reconsider the vote on Line 87 for Burgess Education; JL seconds. Motion to reconsider was accepted 6-0-0.

JW moved the motion to approve Line 87 for Burgess education in the amount of \$11,020,234.00; JL seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0.

Review of Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles

KN provided materials to the committee outlining the costs associated to the Cedar Lake courts as presented in Article 6.

JL moved the motion to accept Article 6 – Community Preservation Recreation Court Borrowing as written; BB seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0.

Article 7 and Article 25 were held pending the meeting with the Open Space Committee.

JL moved the motion to accept Article 26 – Tax Rate Relief as written; MS seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0.

JW moved the motion to accept Article 27 – Capital Stabilization Fund as written; MS seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0.

There was discussion on the citizen's petition Article 40 for the town to accept Old Town Way as a public road. The committee questioned why this has been raised after many years, but acknowledged that the issue needed to be addressed. However, the committee felt that this issue was not within its scope. KN communicated some of the issues the DPW Director had with the plan. The committee felt it to be important for the citizen's petition to be considered but did not feel it was up to the Finance Committee to determine whether a town road should be public or remain private.

JL moved the motion to take no action; JB seconds. The motion to take no action was accepted 6-0-0.

JL moved the motion to accept Article 41 – Petitioned Article - Change to Zoning Map – 212-226 Charlton Rd as written; BB seconds. Motion accepted 5-1-0 (MS opposed).

There was also continued discussion on the citizen's petition Article 42 for the Village Gateway amendment before moving to vote.

BB moved the motion to accept Article 42 – Petitioned Article – Amend Chapter 27 – Village Gateway District as written; JB seconds. Motion accepted 4-1-1 (MS opposed, KN abstained).

No Old Business

New Business

KN noted the memorial service for Suzanne Smiley is scheduled for May 11 from 4:00pm to 7:00pm in Auburn. The meeting of May 11 will be changed to commence at 7:30pm to accommodate members of the committee planning to attend calling hours.

KN also noted that work will begin on the summary boxes, and asked JL to send the final budget file to Barbara Barry, as well as send the Article votes to Leon Gaumont. A final file for the warrant will be sent to her once it is approved by town counsel.

No Public Access

JL moved the motion to adjourn at 9:16pm; JW seconds. Meeting adjourned.

/jml