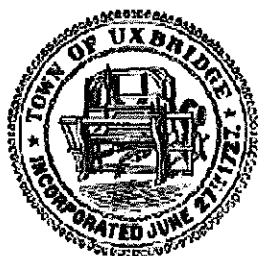


*JS*



# Town of Uxbridge, Massachusetts Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: June 15, 2011

Place: Uxbridge High School Auditorium

**Present:**

Peter DeMers	P	Mark Andrews	P	Howard Fortner	P
Christine Horwath	A	John Morawski	A	Ray Wright	P
Open position	n/a				

Call to Order: 7:00 PM

- Attend School Building Committee informational meeting regarding Article 2 – June 23, 2011 Special Town Meeting warrant

The Finance Committee listened to a presentation by the School Building Committee on the plans for recreational fields to be added to the new Uxbridge High School project. While the figure of \$5,000,000 has been discussed, neither the Article nor the handouts of the School Building Committee have included spending amounts or cost projections.

After hearing the School Building Committee’s presentation, all Finance Committee members at the meeting had questions regarding the costs of the project and the costs of not authorizing the project. Questions were asked on the following subjects:

- Can we have a breakdown of costs for each section of the plan?
- If the project is not authorized, what is the plan, and what are the costs?
- Is the synthetic field covered by a warranty?
- What are the costs of maintenance?
- What are the costs of replacement?
- What are the benefits of a synthetic field over a grass field?
- What is the usable life of a synthetic field?
- What is the scope of the field facility building (concession/storage/restrooms)?
- At what cost will this structure be built?
- What is the parking capacity of the new high school?
- Is there a plan to expand parking?
- From what materials will the tennis courts be constructed?
- What fields will be protected by fencing?
- Will the softball field have a fence?

Will a regulation soccer field fit inside of the planned baseball field?  
 Why are the projected costs not in line with costs presented at prior meetings and in prior documents?

In addition to the aforementioned subjects, the Finance Committee probed for greater details on costs, operating costs, and costs of alternative plans. The School Building Committee also heard questions from citizens of the Town, as this was a public forum.

The School Building Committee informational meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

2. Reserve Fund Transfers

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

Motion	To transfer \$4,000 from the Reserve Fund into the Elections budget for costs associated with the June 23 <sup>rd</sup> Special Town Meeting and the July 12 <sup>th</sup> Special Election.				
1 <sup>st</sup>	MA	2 <sup>nd</sup>	HF	Vote	4-0-0

Discussion: The Town Finance Director, David Genereux, spoke to the costs of the June 23<sup>rd</sup> Special Town Meeting and the July 12<sup>th</sup> Special Election. Even though the July 12<sup>th</sup> Special Election would be held in FY2012, funds need to be allocated to expenses that would be incurred prior to the Special Election, and these expenses would need to be closed out in the current FY2011.

3. Recommendations -- June 23, 2011 Special Town Meeting warrant

Article 2: No recommendation was made at this meeting on Article 2.

Discussion points on Article 2 included the fact that no dollar value was mentioned in the Article, as presented on the warrant for the Special Town Meeting. The sentiment of the Finance Committee was that facts and figures have been difficult to obtain throughout the process of considering this Article, but that in the long run, without appropriate recreational facilities, the new high school would be incomplete, costs to transport student-athletes around town could not accurately be forecasted, the issue would continue to divide and cost the town, and an incomplete facility would not reverse or even slow the financial impact that school choice has on the Town.

While the Finance Committee members supported Article 2, prior to making an official recommendation, the Committee would seek greater detail with regard to spending limits, costs, and the potential for reimbursement from the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Article 1:

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

Motion	For favorable action on Article 1.				
1 <sup>st</sup>	MA	2 <sup>nd</sup>	PD	Vote	3-1-0

Discussion points on Article 1 included its timing relative to a deal the Board of Selectmen had just reached with a Solar Energy developers, though this agreement was done independently of the Special Town Meeting warrant, and the Article would have no impact on the agreement. The Committee members voting in favor of the motion spoke of the need to accommodate new technologies in the Town's by-laws and its approach to how it conducts its business. The dissenting vote, Mr. Fortner, voiced concern over the Town's willingness to entertain changes its by-laws every time it is approached by a new business venture.

4. Old Business

The Chairman, Mr. DeMers, had no information on whether or not any candidates had been identified for the open seat on the Finance Committee. He encouraged the Committee members to make a final push to fill the seat.

5. New Business

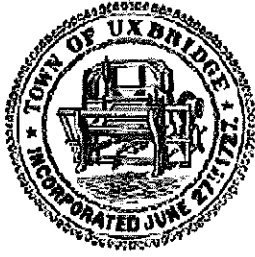
None.

6. Adjournment

Motion/Second/Discussion Vote

Motion	To adjourn meeting.				
1 <sup>st</sup>	MA	2 <sup>nd</sup>	RW	Vote	4-0-0

The motion to adjourn the meeting passed.



## Finance Committee Approval Sheet

Name	Signature	Date
Peter DeMers		08/23/2011
Mark Andrews		08/23/2011
Howard Fortner		8-23-2011
Christine Horwath		
John Morawski		
Ray Wright		