

Members Present: Jo Lown, Chair, Bill Linnane, Cliff Watts, John E. Arnold, Brigitte Casemyr, Michael Meachen, Ian Johnson, Judy Lucas.

Absent: none.

At 7:08 p.m. Ms. Lown called the meeting to order in the Selectmen's Meeting Room.

Open Forum

There were no requests to address the committee.

Approval of minutes – Meeting No. 28, April 30, 2009.

Mr. Watts moved to approve the minutes of meeting No. 28, April 30, 2009 as reflected in revised draft of May 7. The vote to approve the minutes was 7 in favor, with 8 being present. (Ms. Lucas abstains.)

Final Review: FY 10 Recommendations

Ms. Lown reported on the updated Recap sheet that was received from the Town Accountant. To follow up on discussions from the last meeting, it has been learned that the amount that is shown for the State Aid to Public Libraries amount is the amount that was already received (for the State Aid to Public Libraries for FY2009). Therefore, the amount can remain at last year's amount (which is higher than the amount expected to be received for FY10). The amount received in FY10 will be applied next year.

Based on the latest Recap sheet and the Committee votes so far, there is an estimated \$58,200 of excess levy capacity.

As the Committee proceeds with its final preparations for the Annual Town Meeting, Ms. Lown discussed the handling of any unused transfer funds and any unused (but released) overlay funds. Both of these amounts can be used to reduce the amount of money that must be raised and appropriated at the Town Meeting. Ms. Lown and Mr. Johnson have reviewed these amounts and discussed where they can be applied. It was noted that Article 8D only provides for an amount to be raised and appropriated for the Finance Committee General Reserve Fund and, therefore, transfers and overlay funds cannot be used for that Reserve Fund. This means that the Committee recommendations should fully apply any remaining transfers and overlay funds to Article 7.

During the discussion, Ms. Casemyr noted that she wants the Finance Committee General Reserve Fund only to be used for non-budget emergency items and would not be in favor of using this fund for budgets. Mr. Watts mentioned that the Town has received the one-time transportation reimbursement check for \$65,000 from the Assabet Valley Regional Vocational School District and believes that money will roll into the Town's Free Cash sometime on or after July 1.

Mr. Johnson asked for a recap of the discussions regard the Hazardous Waste Day and Mosquito Control Catch Basin funds that are requested in Article 8G. Ms. Casemyr summarized that the vote to recommend that Article 8G reflected the belief (shared by Mr. McNulty when he presented the Health Department budget and articles to the Committee) that these programs could be skipped for one year. Mr. Linnane emphasized that the mosquito control program in Article 8G is for mosquito control in the Town's catch basins only and that the state mosquito control program would not be affected by the defeat of Article 8G. Mr. Johnson reminded the Committee that a similar recommendation to defeat the Hazardous Waste Day was not followed by the voters in past recommendations.

Town Meeting Report and Recommendation to Voters

A table of votes taken is attached to these minutes.

The Committee discussed the latest draft of its report to the Annual Town Meeting and Special Town Meeting posted for May 16, 2009. Each page was reviewed to verify that accuracy of the Committee votes taken and the wording of the explanatory notes.

Article 29 (Assabet Valley School Committee representation) was discussed since Ms. Lucas was not present at the previous meeting where a vote was taken. Mr. Johnson indicated that, of the 5 options presented in the Attorney General opinion that was given to the Committee, the option presented in this article is the best option. He prefers the current choice of representation (direct election by Westborough voters) but notes that this is not one of the 5 options. Mr. Arnold indicated that, in his opinion, one of the other options (having the Westborough representative appointed by some set of elected officials in Westborough) would give Westborough voters more control over their representation. Though not as direct a method as the current election, it would retain Westborough's representation being selected by people who were elected only by Westborough voters.

During the discussion of the Wastewater Treatment Plant, it was reported that the Town has been informed that it will be eligible for a grant for the Treatment Plant upgrade. However, the amount of the grant is not yet known.

After the entire Report had been reviewed and the various edits discussed, Mr. Watts moved that the Committee accept the 'Report and Recommendations of the Advisory Finance Committee to the Annual Town Meeting and Special Town Meeting – May 16, 2009' as amended. The vote to accept the report is unanimous with 8 members present.

Town Meeting Preparation

Ms. Lown reminded Committee members that meetings of the Committee have been posted for noon on Saturday, May 16 (prior to the Annual Town Meeting) and the meeting will continue for the duration of the Annual Town Meeting. Additionally, a Committee meeting has been posted for the Special Town Meeting (7pm on May 16).

Mr. Arnold will prepare, for the Committee's possible use, a document that lists items for possible further consideration or reconsideration. The intention of this list is that it captures items discussed during this year's Committee meetings for possible review if the Town's projected finances indicate that the currently estimated excess levy capacity needs to change significantly.

Mr. Arnold will also prepare a brief presentation on the Salary and Wage Schedules and the impact of the proposed changes for employees at the 'Max' level and 'non-Max' levels in case questions arise at Town Meeting.

Comments and Concerns of Committee Members

Ms. Lown mentioned that the Town Manager has been discussing some contingency plans if the projected state budget amounts are dramatically changed prior to the Town Meeting. He may present some of those ideas or plans at the next Board of Selectmen meeting. The Wastewater Treatment Plant Board will also be making a presentation to the Selectmen at that meeting.

Adjournment

At 10:07 p.m. Ms. Lucas moved to adjourn the meeting. The vote to adjourn was unanimous, 8 in favor with 8 being present.

Votes taken at the Finance Committee meeting on May 7, 2009

1) Article votes

ARTICLE 7. Fiscal Year 2010 Operating Budgets (Advisory Finance Committee)

Ms. Lown moved to recommend that the Town vote to raise and appropriate such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the several town departments for the ensuing fiscal year and that each total read by the Moderator be considered a separate motion made for each of the line items making up that total in the column marked 'FY 2010 recommended' and that the items not questioned be reduced by the transfer of \$418 from FY2008 Personnel Board Expense Encumbrances, \$6,234 from Article 9G of the 2007 ATM, \$42,035 from Overlay Surplus and the transfer from Free Cash of \$1,201,642, and that the balance be raised and appropriated.

Vote to approve the article recommendation is unanimous, 8 in favor, with 8 being present.

ARTICLE 29. Amendment to Assabet Valley Regional Vocation H.S. District Agreement (Board of Selectmen)

Ms. Lucas moved to recommend the town vote to support this article.

Vote to approve the article recommendation is 6 in favor and 2 opposed (Arnold, Casemyr), with 8 being present.

ARTICLE 33. Accept Gift of Land (Board of Selectmen)

Mr. Johnson moved to recommend that the Town vote to follow the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen.

Vote to approve the article recommendation is 7 in favor, 1 opposed (Lown) with 8 being present.