

Advisory Finance Committee
Minutes of Meeting
16 September 2013

Approved:
September 23, 2013

Location: Selectmen's Meeting Room, Town Hall

Members present:

Ed Behn, Chair
John Arnold
Lisa Blazejewski
Peter Allen
Sharon Kaiser
Gary Wells
Hank Rauch
Jim Tepper

Members absent:

Kathy Rosenblum Senie

Mr. Behn called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Wells' made a motion to approve the amended minutes of 9 September 2013. VOTED: 7 in favor, 1 abstention (Mr. Tepper), with 8 being present.

Review of Fall 2013 Special Town Meeting Warrant

Mr. Malloy emailed the committee an updated draft (dated 9/13/13) of the Articles. In reviewing the Articles, it was determined that more follow up was needed for clarification.

Articles 1, 28, and 29 relate to electronic voting. Mr. Behn will schedule a time for Joe Harrington to come in and answer questions on how electronic voting works.

Article 2 – TIF plan for Cumberland Farms – request from committee to contact Mr. Malloy for a spreadsheet indicating the actual dollar amount expected. Mr. Behn will follow up with Mr. Malloy.

Articles 3 through 7 are in regard to the purchase of the State Hospital land. The committee would like further explanation on these Articles. Mr. Behn will contact Mr. Malloy for a copy of the Purchase Agreement and schedule a time for Mr. Malloy and a Board of Selectmen representative to meet with the committee.

Article 8 was self-explanatory and required no further action.

Article 9 related to the space needs of the Library. Mr. Arnold is the Library liaison. He is going to review and determine if a representative from the Library Board of Trustees needs to meet with the committee.

Article 10 – Adjust General, Water, and Sewer Fund for FY 2014 – it was determined that any questions relating to this Article can be addressed to Mr. Malloy when he meets with the committee regarding the purchase of the State Hospital land. Mr. Tepper was concerned with how the request for salary increases were lumped in with reductions giving the appearance that money isn't being spent but it is – is there a way to separate out? Committee will follow up with Mr. Malloy.

Articles 11 & 12 – These Articles relate to the reorganization and classification of Recreation Department employees, along with a correction to the Council on Aging title and reclassification of the DPW Manager to a salaried, contracted employee. Mr. Rauch asked if Recreation Department fees will increase. Also are people being moved in to higher slots? Ms. Kaiser is the liaison and will contact Mr. DeSiata for clarification. If there are additional questions Ms. Kaiser will have Mr. DeSiata meet with the committee. Mr. Wells suggested that perhaps someone from the Personnel Board should meet with the committee as well, since he felt it was difficult to determine from the chart who was in charge and at what rate. Ms. Kaiser is also the liaison for the Personnel Board. She will follow up and report back to the committee.

Article 13 – This is a request for funds for securing easements for the multi-use trail through Westborough. Mr. Rauch asked if the money would be used strictly for easements and purchase of property in Westborough or would other towns be affected? Since there wasn't currently a liaison assigned to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Ad Hoc Committee from the Advisory Finance Committee, Mr. Rauch volunteered to fill that role. He will contact Bruce Tretter and Don Burn for clarification and report back to the committee.

Article 14 is a request for funds for the Sandra Pond watershed maintenance project. Mr. Behn felt it would be beneficial to have Derek Saari from the Conservation Commission meet with the committee to outline what this project will cover.

Article 15 was self-explanatory and required no further action.

Article 16 relates to the establishment of a revolving fund for the purpose of receiving donations to provide heating assistance and programs for seniors. Committee members wanted to know how it is determined as to who receives assistance. What is the Council on Aging's current process for deciding who gets assistance? Will this process change? What is the advantage of moving to the revolving fund? Mr. Allen asked how the funds are being distributed – are they currently providing a little assistance to many or a lot of assistance to a few? Ms. Kaiser is the Council on Aging liaison – she will contact them and get answers as to how funds are distributed. If further clarification is necessary, they will be invited to meet with the committee.

Article 17 is a request for funds to complete final paving and curbing at the Senior Center. Mr. Wells questioned whether there were funds still available in prior Articles relating to the Senior Center parking lot. There may be monies still available in past Articles with surpluses. Mr. Wells will follow up with Mr. Malloy and report back to the committee.

Article 18 relates to the Economic Development Committee's request for a part time employee to attend trade shows and continue with their outreach efforts. The idea is to use half of the receipts received from Clear Channel's payment to the town for digital billboards along Route 9 in the amount of \$50,000 for the part time employee's salary (\$25,000) and the other half going to the General Fund. Committee members would like further clarification of how the salary amount of \$25,000 was determined. The request was made by committee members that a member from the Economic Development Committee meet with the Advisory Finance Committee. Mr. Allen is the liaison - he said he would let Lester Hensley know that Mr. Behn will be contacting him to schedule a time for him to come in.

Articles 19, 20, and 21 were self-explanatory and required no further action.

Articles 22 through 27 are amending Zoning Bylaws. The committee requested that a member of the Planning Board meet to answer questions and provide further clarification. Mr. Behn will

coordinate scheduling a time for the Planning Board to attend an upcoming AFC meeting – preferably on 9/26.

Articles 30 & 31 are newer Articles relating to zoning. Article 30 pertains to the renovations of the new Country Club restaurant. Article 31 relates to the addition that is going on the back of the Town Hall as part of the renovation. Mr. Behn will request maps from Mr. Malloy outlining changes.

Committee members agreed that the goal of the booklet that is being compiled for voters should be to provide clarification on each of the Articles.

Liaison Reports

The third presentation by Mr. Malloy on the acquisition of the State hospital land will be Tuesday, 9/17, at 7pm in the High School Auditorium. Mr. Allen mentioned that there are Power Point presentations on the town's website from the previous presentations. Mr. Tepper reported that Gibbons Middle School has selected Habib & Associates for the renovations. Mr. Behn is working on scheduling a meeting with himself, Ms. Rosenblum Senie, Mr. Arnold, and the School Dept regarding format and detail for the school budget and what the AFC would like to see.

Future Meetings

The next Advisory Finance Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, September 19, 2013 at 7:00 pm. The meeting will take place if there's material to cover. If not, the next meeting will be Monday, September 23, 2013, at 7:00 pm in Room 23 at the Forbes Building. The next few weeks may involve two meetings per week (Monday & Thursday evenings) up through October 10, 2013 to meet with other committees to gain further clarification and an understanding of the Articles.

Adjournment

Mr. Wells moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 pm. Motion to adjourn was 8 in favor, with 8 being present.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Thomas, Administrative Assistant