

Westborough Advisory Finance Committee

Minutes of Meeting No.19, FY 2017

Monday, February 23, 2017

Members Present: Hank Rauch, Chair, Beth Blumberg, Vice Chair, Paul Huegel, Sean Keogh, Jim Driscoll, Phyllis Jaffee, Andrew Bradley, Gary Wells

Absent: Tom Blakely

At 7:05 p.m. Mr. Rauch called the meeting to order in Memorial Hall of the Town Hall.

Open Forum

There was no one present to address the Committee.

Approval of Past Minutes

There were no minutes prepared to be approved.

Warrant Articles 34 & 35

Jim Robbins, Town Planner appeared before the committee to review Articles 34, Accessory Dwelling Units and Article 35, Highway Business District. The details of each article were presented and discussed with the committee. There were various back and forth questions from the committee and Mr. Robbins.

Mr. Huegel, Planning Dept liaison, had a couple of questions regarding the Planning Dept. budget salary drop which Mr. Robbins explained was due to the re-organization with the Conservation Commission and the modest expense increase was due to the general cost of expense items and services utilized by the Planning Dept.

A motion was made to recommend approval of article 34, voted 8-0-0

A motion was made to recommend approval of article 35, voted 8-0-0

Agenda Discussions

Mr. Rauch opened discussion on resuming voting on Warrant Articles, there was a general discussion among the committee on version of the Warrant so everyone was utilizing the same revision, when the final version was truly a final version, a review of some Articles and the proposed Motions at Town Meeting.

There was continued discussion on the use of Free Cash and Borrowing as funding for various Articles particularly the School related Articles. There was discussion on the anticipated increase in Chapter 70 funds of \$1.9M after years of Westborough combating with the State on the calculations used to determine our portion of Chapter 70 funds. There was discussion on Short term and Long term borrowing and how they are utilized with various projects in town.

Ms. Blumberg called for a straw vote on the School Articles so that the School Department might have an indication of the mood of the committee as to approving or disapproving of the Articles. Mr. Rauch was opposed to a straw vote, saying it would set an unwanted precedent for the committee and cause problems in the future with everyone wanting a straw vote on their specific articles.

Mr. Rauch reiterated his position that the committee should continue voting on the various Warrant Articles that were unlikely to change or require additional information to make a decision, passing over any Article that there may still be uncertainty about.

Article Votes

Appropriate recommendation motions were made and the following Articles voted.

Article 14, Motion to Transfer from Water R/E \$36,800. Voted 8-0-0

Article 21, Motion to Transfer from Free Cash \$29,000. Voted 8-0-0

Article 22, Motion to So Vote. Voted 8-0-0

Article 23, Motion to Transfer from Sewer R/E \$400,000. Voted 8-0-0

Article 24, Motion to Transfer from Water R/E \$275,000. Voted 8-0-0

Article 25, Passed Over

Article 26, Passed Over

Article 27, Motion to So Vote. Voted 7-0-0, Mr. Keogh had to depart for the evening.

Article 28, Motion to So Vote, Voted 7-0-0

Article 29, Motion to So Vote, Voted 7-0-0

Article 30, Motion to So Vote, Voted 7-0-0

Article 31, Motion to So Vote, Voted 7-0-0

Committee & Liaison Reports

No Committee or Liaison Reports.

Mr. Rauch and Ms. Blumberg reviewed the progress on hiring an Administrative Assistant.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Wells motioned to adjourn @ 9:15 p.m. Voted: 7-0-0

Document List:

No documents

Respectfully submitted:

Gary P. Wells – AFC Committee Member