

Westborough Advisory Finance Committee

Minutes of Meeting #20, FY 2017

Monday, February 27, 2017

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

Absent: Hank Rauch, Chair, Paul Huegel, Tom Blakely

At 7:05 p.m. Ms. Blumberg 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.

Article #13, Recreation Parking Lots

Alan Grady, Recreational Director, Earl Storey & Carl Balduf from the DPW were present to discuss the addition and construction of two parking lots for the soccer fields located at the former Westborough State Hospital ground.

Alan presented a brief overview of the history, the current and anticipated usage and a future Master Plan for the recreational area. The concern now is the parking availability during games and the congestion on the access roads, often times leading to bottle necked traffic during cross over periods particularly along the shore road. There is also concern for safety of parents and players along with access of emergency vehicles should they be required.

Working with the DPW the Recreational department has reduced the cost to install two new parking areas from a quoted \$800K to \$244,500 as indicated in the Warrant Article. This due largely in part to the work by Mr. Storey and Mr. Balduf of the DPW to relocate and re-design the parking area without loss to the number of spaces available or access to the fields. The new parking areas should provide for 55 to 60 new parking spaces removing those vehicles from parking and congesting the access roads.

After the presentation there was general discussion by the committee.

Mr. Bradley motioned for approval of the Article:

Ms. Blumberg called for a vote on Article 13: Vote: 6-0-0

Agenda Item

There was a review of the Warrant Articles still remaining to be voted, it was decided that the budget and borrowing articles were to be passed over for the time being.

Articles 32 & 33, Marijuana Zoning and Bylaws

Mr. Wells made a motion to DEFEAT Article 32. Mr. Wells pointed out that we had enacted Zoning Bylaws at the 2016 Fall Special Town Meeting that so severely restricted retail outlets to the adult entertainment area, which is currently a wooded lot, not accessible from the town of Westborough roads and that it would additionally required Harr Honda to relinquish one of its parking lots for any retailer to build an establishment that met zoning setbacks.

We had in essence, from a practical standpoint, banned all retail sales of Marijuana and Marijuana products in the town of Westborough. Any prospective retailer will just seek a less complicated location to set up shop.

These additional Bylaws and Amendments were unnecessary and too restrictive to future business that may be beneficial to the town's commercial businesses and tax base. Mr. Wells pointed out that with Astra Zenaca gone we have lost \$100M in town evaluation and tax revenue. He went on to say that a Bio-Tech company would be a perfect match for the Astra Zenaca property and if they wanted to do any research or development for the bio-medical industry with marijuana and needed to grow some plant for this it would be prohibited. With these types of restrictions they would just move across the street to Northborough, Shrewsbury, Marlborough and be lost to us.

There was general discussion with the committee.

Ms. Blumberg called for a vote to defeat the article: Vote: 6-0-0

Mr. Wells made a second motion to DEFEAT Article 33. Mr. Wells indicated that his initial comments stand true for this article.

Ms. Blumberg called for a vote to defeat the article: Vote: 6-0-0

Articles 37 & 38, Property Acquisitions

Mr. Wells indicated that both Articles dealt with the Spurr House property and give the Selectmen the authority to resolve the parking lot issue and property line issues.

There was general discussion with the committee. An appropriate motion to So Vote made.

Ms. Blumberg called for a vote on Article 37: Vote: 6-0-0

There was general discussion with the committee. An appropriate motion to So Vote made.

Ms. Blumberg called for a vote on Article 38: Vote: 6-0-0

Article 40, EMT Training utilizing Fire Code Violation Fund

There was general discussion with the committee. An appropriate transfer of funds motion made.

Ms. Blumberg called for a vote on Article 40: Vote: 6-0-0

Committee & Liaison Reports

Ms. Blumberg gave an update on the Administrative Assistant, indicated that we had a town employee who currently worked 30 hours for the town, so she would be limited to 10 hours per week, which could mean some delay in preparation of minutes during our busy period. Ms. Blumberg asked for a straw vote on the overall situation to see if this was acceptable to the committee. Straw Vote was 6-0-0 to approve.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bradley motioned to adjourn @ 9:20 p.m. Voted: 6-0-0

Document List:

Recreation Dept, Master Plan and Parking

Respectfully submitted:
Gary P. Wells – AFC Committee Member

Approved 03-13-17