

# **Westborough Advisory Finance Committee**

Minutes of Meeting # 21, FY 2017

Thursday, March 2, 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 7:00 p.m. Chairman 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.

## **Article 11: Crosswalk Safety Signs (BPAC)**

Bruce Tretter, Selectman and member of the Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee came before the committee and made a presentation on the addition of 4 rapid flash crosswalk signs and their proposed locations. There was also a brief history of other installations and their operation and success and the standard crosswalk signs now being used in Westborough. Also there was a cost reduction from the Warrant value of \$25,200 to \$20,100 that would be presented at Town Meeting.

There was back and forth general discussion on locations, sidewalks, life expectancy, the number of signs and operations.

Mr. Tretter indicated there is not a master town wide plan for installations, that the committee considers input from the general public, business community, Police Dept., School Dept., to determine the crosswalks in most need of being updated to the rapid flashing design.

Motion made to Transfer from Free Cash of \$20,100 for the purposes of the Article.

No further discussion. Voted: 7-0-0

## **Article 41: Lease Agreement with Explorer Post**

Mr. Dana Haagensen came before the committee to discuss the proposed 5 year lease between the Town and the Explorer Post which is up for renewal in 2018. With the on-going renovations of the Forbes Municipal Building and their proximity to that building they would like to have a lease in place to know that they have a location to return to. They have had to relocate their vehicles and some equipment to the DPW and have installed a temporary canvas garage for that purpose. The DPW had been most accommodating with location and power sources, etc. They are working with the Municipal Building Committee to secure walk able access to their current building during the renovations as most of their members are from the High School and often meet after school.

There was back and forth general discussion on the above mentioned points with the committee.

Motion made to support Article 41. No further discussion. Voted 6-0-1

### **Agenda Item**

The committee returned to Warrant Article and Budget review. There was again more discussion on Borrowing verses the use of Free Cash. Mr. Wells handed out a flow diagram of operations for the Enterprises, Water, Sewer and Country Club and explained that when we voted to borrow money relative to those enterprises that the debt associated with those borrowings flow into the enterprise operation and not the general debt of the town. The general debt is the 7% ratio of budget guideline that is often referred too.

### **Article 39: Use of Bond Premiums**

The discussion now turned to Article 39 and how bond premiums are paid and where the money goes. Mr. Wells pointed out that until now any bond premiums received by the town went to Free Cash. This article allows for the bond premiums to be used to reduce the associated debt of that bond. This has two implications, 1.) it reduces the debt and 2.) it reduces receipts into Free Cash, so while we reduce the debt load on the town we also loose the revenue to our Free Cash account for other uses.

There was discussion on policy relative to use of bond premiums, Mr. Rauch indicated that there was not because it is new and this and other policy items should be taken up in April and May and at that time presented to the Board of Selectmen for consideration.

Motion made to support Article 39. No further discussion. Voted 6-0-1

### **Article 7A: Reserve Funds**

Mr. Wells made an appropriate Motion for R&A and Transfer of Funds to support the Reserve Funds. No further discussion. Voted 7-0-0

### **Committee & Liaison Reports**

Mr. Wells commented that the PreK to 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade committee met tonight to review the contract with HMFH who had been selected as our architects. There was discussion on the Armstrong module project as outlined in Article 20, at which point he had to leave that meeting to attend this one.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Wells motioned to adjourn @ 9:30 p.m. Voted: 7-0-0

### **Document List:**

BPAC, Crosswalk Signage  
Explorer Post, General Brochure  
Enterprise Funds, Flow Chart of Operations.

Respectfully submitted:

Gary P. Wells – AFC Committee Member

Approved 03-13-17