

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2016
Town Hall – Sturbridge MA

Call to Order:

The chair called the meeting to order at 7:00pm with the following Finance Committee members present: Chair, Kathleen Neal (KN), Kevin Smith (KS), Joni Light (JL), James Waddick (JW), Suzanne Smiley (SS), Laurance Morrison (LM).

Annual Town Meeting Warrant Town Counsel Revisions

Article 6 – Community Preservation—Trail Development Work

KN introduced the review of changes presented from Town Counsel (TC) revisions on the Annual and Special Town Meeting Warrant that was posted on Monday, May 9, 2016. JL stated that TC changed summary boxes for the Finance Committee Report FY17 – Town Meeting Warrant. TC struck out “continuing” and replaced with “creating and or restoring trail(s)”. [Article 6 – Community Preservation—Trail Development Work]

JL moved the motion to reconsider Article 6– Community Preservation—Trail Development Work, KS seconds, motion to reconsider passed 7-0-0.

KS moved the motion to approve Article 6 – Community Preservation—Trail Development Work with revisions as written, MS seconds, motion passed 7-0-0.

Article 20 – Capital Improvement Plan

KS moved the motion to reconsider Article 20 – Capital Improvement Plan, JL seconds, motion passed 7-0-0.

KS moved the motion to approve Article 20 – Capital Improvement Plan as written, MS seconds, motion passed 6-0-1 (KN abstaining)

Article 37 – Amendment to General Bylaws – False Alarms

KS moved the motion to reconsider Article 37 – Amendment to General Bylaws—False Alarms, JW seconds, motion passed 7-0-0.

KS moved the motion on Article 37 – Amendment to General Bylaws—False Alarms to take no action JW seconds, motion passed 7-0-0.

Article 39 – Request for Special Act of the Legislature Concerning the Sturbridge Conservation Commission

KS moved the motion to reconsider Article 39– Request for Special Act of the Legislature Concerning the Sturbridge Conservation Commission, JW seconds, motion to reconsider passed 7-0-0.

KS moved the motion to approve Article 39– Request for Special Act of the Legislature Concerning the Sturbridge Conservation Commission as revised, JL seconds, motion passed 6-0-1. (MS opposed)

Review of the Report of the Finance Committee for Final Annual Town Meeting Warrant

There is discussion as to the legalities of amending the Annual Town Warrant after it has been posted. The committee discusses the need for a vote on amendments. LM brings up the vote of the town last year to allow the Town Clerk to make ministerial changes for the specific article to be better written. KS stated that the “and” before the last bullet dollar amount may be in the legally incorrect place in Article 15 – Sewer Project Debt. JW KN and MS agreed that the “and” may be placed correctly in Article 15 – Sewer Project Debt.

There is brief discussion of the paragraph appendices of the committee members’ observations of issues in the budget process.

Review of the Report of the Finance Committee for Final Special Town Meeting Warrant, Review of the Line Item Budget

JL corrected an erroneous formula for the first occurrence of grand total at the end of the document.

Committee reached consensus that the document was close to satisfactory for print. JL will bring a hard copy to the following meeting for a final check from the committee.

Committee discusses taking May 17 off from meeting and reaches a consensus for meeting on May 19 to review minutes that are pending.

New Business, Old Business, Public Access - none

KS moved the motion to adjourn at 9:12pm, MS seconds, motion passes 7-0-0.