

**Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
Town Hall ~ May 2, 2017
Sturbridge, MA**

Call to Order:

The chair called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. The following committee members were present: Kathleen Neal (KN), Joni Light (JL), Michael Serio (MS), James Waddick (JW), Mike Hager (MH). Bruce Boyson (BB) arrived at 7:15.

Absent: Jared Burns (JB), Larry Morrison (LM)

Guests: Jean Bubon (JBU), Sandra Gibson-Quigley (SQ), Charles Blanchard (CB), James Cunniff (JC)

KN informed the committee of the changes to the line item budget as discussed, reviewed and voted at the last Board of Selectman (BOS) meeting. The Town Administrator brought forth some budget changes to several budgets that will require the committee to vote again.

Review of Line Item Budget Changes

In the Unclassified budget, Line 141 was reduced by \$47,710.00 by the Finance Director. MH moved the motion to reconsider the vote on Line 141; JL seconds. Motion to reconsider was accepted 5-0-0.

MH moved the motion to approve Line 141 for Group Insurance in the amount of \$1,678,000; JL seconds. Motion accepted 5-0-0.

Line 24 Purchase of Services for Information Technology was increased by the Town Administrator by \$1,099.00. JW moved the motion to reconsider the vote on Line 24; JL seconds. Motion to reconsider was accepted 5-0-0.

JL moved the motion to approve Line 24 in the Purchase of Services for Information Technology in the amount of \$100,479.00; MS seconds. Motion accepted 5-0-0.

Line 74 Personnel Costs for Building Inspector was increased by the Town Administrator by \$24,815.00. The increase accounts for the additional hours for the inspector and the transition to full-time for the administrative assistant. This was not previously voted so no reconsideration vote was required.

MH moved the motion to approve Line 74 Personnel Costs for Building Inspector in the amount of \$108,981.00; JW seconds. Motion accepted 5-0-0.

KN explained that there will be a new line item under the Burgess Elementary School Line 87. New numbering and account number will be required. However, for this vote the new line item will be referred to as Charter School Transportation. This is an incremental amount to the Burgess School Budget. It is for transportation of town residents attending the OSV Charter School which is in Sturbridge. For students attending charter schools in the same district where they live, the district is required to provide transportation under the same rules established for district students. OSV Charter will be reimbursed by the town for the transportation costs it incurs.

MH moved the motion to approve Charter School Transportation in the amount of \$6,000.00; MS seconds. Motion accepted 5-0-1 (BB abstained).

Planning Board Presentation of Articles

Members of the Planning Board were present to answer questions on the Planning Department/Planning Board sponsored warrant articles. JBU clarified the points on Article 29 which prohibits marijuana facilities and retailers as a companion article to the recent ballot vote in April. The acceptance of this article would

permanently prohibit any retailers, cultivators and testing facilities of marijuana in the town. She also explained Article 30 which is a zoning bylaw introducing a temporary moratorium for such facilities in the town. JBU further explained that if Article 29 is approved as written by the town residents there would be no real need to keep Article 30 because there would not be any such businesses or facilities allowed. KN did some research on the law and commented on various aspects of the law and what is being done by the Commonwealth to clarify procedures for local communities. BB said he would ask that it be made clear to the residents at the town meeting that if Article 29 is passed it would be permanent, and any changes to it in the future would require a petition and article change.

BB moved the motion to approve Article 29 – Zoning Bylaw Prohibition of Recreational Marijuana as written; MH seconds. Motion accepted 4-2-0 (KN, JL opposed).

MH moved the motion to approve Article 30 – Zoning Bylaw Temporary Moratorium of Recreational Marijuana as written; JW seconds. Motion accepted 5-1-0 (JL opposed).

MH moved the motion to approve Article 31 – Zoning Bylaw Food Establishment/Fast Casual as written; JL seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0.

There was much discussion on Article 42 which is a citizen's petition requesting a change to the Village Gateway District. CB explained that passing this article will allow for the owner of the property to request a special permit to have a fast-casual establishment with a drive through window. Currently the zoning does not allow for fast-casual and would always require a special permit for drive through windows.

MH moved the motion to approve Article 42 - Amend Chapter 27 – Village Gateway District as written. Absent of a second the motion did not prevail. KN said she would consult with the Town Moderator for the best way to present this article at town meeting.

MH moved the motion to approve Article 32 – Zoning Bylaw Definition of Single Family Attached and Detached Dwelling, & Multi Family Dwelling as written; JW seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0.

MH moved the motion to approve Article 33 – Zoning Bylaw Amend Permitted Uses in the Rural Residential, Suburban Residential and Special Use Districts as written; BB seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0.

MH moved the motion to approve Article 34 – Zoning Bylaw Open Space Residential Development as written; JW seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0.

MH moved the motion to approve Article 35 – Zoning Bylaw Multiple Dwelling Projects as written; JW seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0.

MH moved the motion to approve Article 36 – Zoning Bylaw Rural & Suburban Residential Districts as written; JL seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0.

MH moved the motion to approve Article 37 – Zoning Bylaw Chapter 21 – Off Street Parking, Loading & Drive Thru Standards as written; JW seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0.

MH moved the motion to approve Article 38 – Zoning Bylaw Chapter Twenty – General Regulations as written; JW seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0.

MH moved the motion to approve Article 39 – Zoning Bylaw Chapter Twenty-Five – Site Plan Review as written; JW seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0.

The committee did not vote on the remaining petitioned articles (Article 40 and Article 41). KN said she would try to get the parties involved to attend the next meeting for clarification and to answer questions. Moving back to the review of line item budget changes additional line items were reconsidered for a second vote with adjusted figures from the Finance Director.

In the Landfill/Recycling Center there was an incremental decrease of \$6,000.00 to the Purchase of Service account. MS moved the motion to reconsider the vote on Line 102; JS seconds. Motion to reconsider was accepted 6-0-0.

MS moved the motion to approve Line 102 for a total of \$9,270.00; JW seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0.

The Inspections budget was increased incrementally by \$20,167.00 on Line 108. MS moved the motion to reconsider the vote on Line 108; JW seconds. Motion to reconsider was accepted 6-0-0.

MS moved the motion to approve Line 108 for a total of \$44,117.00; JL seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0.

No Old Business

New Business

KN asked the committee to think about their topics of interest paragraphs for the Finance Committee Book. Topics were reviewed. This will be revisited.

No Public Access

JL moved the motion to adjourn at 9:51pm; JW seconds. Meeting adjourned.

/jml