**Finance Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Town Hall ~ May 10, 2018**

**Sturbridge, MA**

**Call to Order:**

The Finance Committee chair called the Finance Committee meeting to order at 7:00pm. The following committee members were present: Kathy Neal (KN), Michael Serio (MS), Larry Morrison (LM), Karen Davis (KD), Mike Hager (MH), Joni Light (JL), and Bruce Boyson (BB). James Waddick (JW) arrived at 7:21pm.

Absent: Jared Burns (JB)

Guests: Barbara Search (BS), Historical Commission; Annie Roscioli (AR), Recreation Director; Erin Carson (EC), Recreation Committee Member

**Annual Town Meeting Warrant Review**

KN introduced BS and asked for an explanation of Article 5 – Community Preservation – Window Weatherization Project at Center Office Building. BS stated that she is asking for $15,000.00 to purchase and install twenty-one exterior storm windows at the Center Office Building (COB). BS stated that the Massachusetts Historical Commission has approved of the exterior storms to provide insulation. MH asked about the difference between the $30,000.00 cost of the first article and the new lower amount. BS explained that originally she had looked at a preservation grant; but after reviewing the requirements of the grant, BS said that she realized that the grant requirements drove the costs up higher than the benefit of the grant. MH moved the motion to recommend Article 5 as written; BB seconds. The motion accepted 8-0-0.

**Special Town Meeting Warrant Review**

KN stated that the amount for the snow and ice deficit has been fixed at $145,597.00. JW moved the motion to recommend Article 63 – Free Cash Transfer – Snow and Ice Deficit, as amended. MH seconds. Motion accepted 8-0-0.

**Annual Town Meeting Article 14 – Town Barn Field Project**

JW moved the motion to reconsider the previous vote on Article 14 now that there were additional committee members present. LM seconds. Motion accepted 8-0-0.

LM moved the motion to recommend Article 14 as amended, “That the Town appropriates $6,700,000 to pay costs of designing, reconstructing and equipping Town Barn Field, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, is authorized to borrow $5,700,000 of said amount under and pursuant to G. L. c. 44, §7(1), or any other enabling authority, and $1,000,000 of said amount under and pursuant to G. L. c. 44B, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town in connection therewith; and further, that any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with G. L. c. 44, §20, thereby reducing by a like amount the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs, or take any other action relative thereto.” MS seconds.

MH gave a recap of the previous meeting’s information and vote. KN asked what has been done to justify the field project’s price tag. AR stated that that $120,000.00 has been spent on the project this far. A discussion followed regarding the cost of removing the ledge. AR handed out a statement from the head of design to clarify comments made at the public meeting. KD asked about parking and travel on the road from the Department of Public Works (Town Barn). AR stated that the road will be redesigned and that there will be parking for 100 cars. Discussion ensued concerning the Recreation Department asking the Community Preservation Commission for an additional $500,000.00 for the project. JL stated that the project would increase taxes on a $300,000.00 home approximately $126.00 per year for twenty years. AR stated that the amount would decline annually. JW asked about installing artificial turf on the multipurpose field if the ledge removal costs less than anticipated. AR stated that she did not want to speak on the committee’s behalf, but she would be open to that. KD asked if there would be revenue generated from the fields. AR stated that there is potential for revenue, but the town needs the fields to meet the needs of the town leagues first.

EC mentioned a park grant that could provide $400,000.00 in reimbursements. AR stated that the fields match all of the guidelines for the grant and that there is a grant writing workshop next week. JL said that the Recreation Committee should consider asking for donations and exploring more avenues to defray costs. KD asked if there could be fund raising to defray costs. AR stated that she understands that the price tag is high and feels that the project will benefit all residents. AR also said that the Recreation Committee is not allowed to raise funds. JW moved the motion. Motion accepted 7-1-0 (JL opposed).

**Reserve Fund Transfer**

JW moved the motion to approve the transfer of $9,115.00 to Library Personnel Services Account( #16101-51130). JL seconds. Motion accepted 7-0-0 (MH stepped prior to the vote).

There was discussion concerning the essays for the Finance Committee book for Town Meeting.

KN stated that there will be no meeting on May 15, 2018.

**No Meeting Minutes to Approve**

**No Old Business**/**No New Business/No Public Access**

MH moved the motion to adjourn; KD seconds. Motion accepted 8-0-0 and meeting adjourned at 9:07pm.

/jme