



TOWN HALL | 39 SOUTH STREET | HINSDALE, MA | 01235 | 413-655-2300

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES / FEBRUARY 15, 2018 at 7pm

posted 8:30am 3/2/2018

Members

Shaun Galliher, Vice Chair
Heather Brown
Earl Peck
Mary Rice
Chris Pike
Ray Bolduc

Absent

Viv Mason

Other

Dick Scialabba Chair (by remote access)
Laurel Scialabba SB Chair (by remote access)
Bob Graves, Town Administrator
Harvey Drosehn, Select Board

The meeting was opened at 7pm.

This meeting was called to review and discuss the February 28, 2018 Special Town Meeting warrant articles.

Shaun Galliher, Vice Chair, commented that we were told there would be only one article on this meeting warrant, now there are two more. He also commented that this warrant was already posted before the Finance Committee was included.

Article 2. - This had been discussed at a previous meeting and the Committee felt this was the right way to fund this project. A motion was made and seconded to recommend this article as written. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Article 3. - The discussion centered around the concern about the balance that would be left in the Sewer 3 surplus account and what would happen if repairs exceeded the balance. The main reason for this action now is that the firm that will do the study, David Prickett Consulting, wants to include the winter melting that takes place in the Spring time. The Committee discussed the entire project, this one deals with the ground water infiltration only. The fix for the infiltration may be cost prohibitive going forward, as we are also looking at an upgrade of the Pittsfield plant. Vice Chair Galliher thought we have no choice but to fund this step. Chairman Scialabba spoke in favor also. Harvey Drosehn, Select Board thought that if we do this step, the State may be more inclined to grant us an extension. A motion was made and seconded to recommend this article as written. The motion passed with a roll call vote.

Article 4. - Bob Graves, Town Administrator, said the goal is to present, at the ATM in May, a proposal to go back to a combined position of Treasurer/Collector, with a deputy collector also. He estimates that this would be a 26 hr week with benefits, the deputy collectors hours would be less. The billing of Water and Sewer should be done by the Collector. A motion was made and seconded to recommend this article as written. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Although Article 2 was already discussed and voted on, the Committee was given additional information. The Contract to replace the gate valve at Plunkett Lake, has been signed for up to

330K. When the Treasurer looked into borrowing the total amount, she found that it could not be paid back early, resulting in over 30K interest over the length of the loan. Also, it is possible that it will not cost as much as 330K due to an inspection that indicated some of the work anticipated is already there and will not need to be redone. To recap, if the Town took the money out of stabilization, we could take out only what we need and could save over 30K in interest.

There was no public comment.

The next regular meeting of this Committee is Thursday, March 1, 2018 at 7pm in the Town Hall Community room. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 8pm. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary A. Rice, Secretary