



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

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES / February 2, 2017

Members:

Ray Bolduc
Shaun Galliher
access)
Chris Pike
Viv Mason
Justin Gilardi
Mary Rice

Absent:

Earl Peck

Other:

Dick Scialabba Chair (by remote access)
Laurel Scialabba SB Chair (by remote
access)
Ryan Aylesworth, Town Admin.
Bonnie Conner

The meeting was opened at 7pm by Ray Bolduc, Vice Chair. Dick Scialabba is participating by remote phone access.

Vice-Chair Bolduc asked for any public comment, there was none.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the January 4, 2017 meeting as written. The motion passed by a roll call vote that was unanimous.

There will be a School Committee meeting on February 16, 2017 to discuss the Building Plans and the status of Cummington if anyone wishes to attend.

Ryan read a letter from the School District concerning a "ballot" vote on April 8, 2017, to fund an 850K Feasibility Study concerning Wahconah Regional High School. This study will look into the feasibility of renovating or replacing the high school grades 9 thru 12. The vote is not the usual town-by-town vote, but a majority of ballots cast. The Finance members questioned the validity but Ryan said it was indeed legal to do per Legal Counsel. Our liability would be 13% or 116K over a 5-year period. The School District will fund all costs for the election. The voting hours will be 8:00 am to 2:00 pm, Saturday, April 8, 2017, at the Hinsdale Town Hall.

Dick Scialabba announced the Free Cash balance. The original estimate prior to the SPTM was approximately 525K. The amount of \$171,700 was approved at the SPTM leaving the 348K in Free Cash.

Vice-Chair Bolduc handed out a copy of the letter Town Treasurer Diane Sturtevant submitted December 14, 2016, to the Select Board regarding the Tax Title Auction.

Vice-Chair Bolduc announced a vacancy on the Committee. Town Council ruled that incarceration disqualifies a member as they lose their registered voter status and no longer live in town. The town will put out a notice of the vacancy and ask for letters of interest to be submitted to Ryan at the Town Hall. A joint meeting of the Committee and Select Board will be

posted for March 2, 2017, our next regular meeting, to vote on the appointment for the vacancy.

Dick Scialabba reminded everyone of the Saturday Finance/Select Board meeting on February 4, 2017. This meeting is to go over all budget requests from department heads.

A motion was made and seconded to hold a joint meeting to vote on a new member. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Vice-Chair Bolduc stated that he talked with Charlie Brown, Town Accountant, and all is on track to this date. Dick Scialabba stated that there are no management comments in the current Audit report.

Shaun Galliher commented that he attended a Water/Sewer Commissioners meeting where they raised the Sewer 1 rate from \$100/yr. to \$130/yr. He thought that "historically" something like this, where a rate is increased, should be reviewed by the Finance Committee prior to a vote by the Board.

Ryan stated that he and Harvey Drosehn, Select Board Member, attended a meeting in Boston to talk about funding for the Plunkett Lake gate valve project. It was recommended that they contact USDA in Amherst for a possible lower interest rate and/or grants that may be available. Vice-Chair Bolduc asked for any Public Comment, there was none.

Our next meeting is Saturday, February 4, at 8:30am in the Town Hall meeting room. Our next regular meeting is March 2, 2017, at 7pm in the Town Hall Community Room.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 7:50 pm. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary A. Rice, Secretary