

## Finance committee meeting held on October 6, 2015

Meeting called to order at 7:08pm

Attending Ray Bricault, Chris Berglund, Paval Loven, David Eckhardt, and Pat Bryant.

Separate minutes for the meeting on September 23, 2015 will not be submitted. The only action at this meeting was to read and approve the minutes submitted for the meeting held on September 15, 2015.

**Article 1.** Ray offered a motion to forego issuing a Finance Committee report at the fall town meeting. Chris seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Article 2 & 3.** There was a discussion of the senior center and police station projects. Neither project is taking any property off the tax rolls. Dispatch will be consolidated by next year but there are no other initiatives to regionalize.

The police station is in need of update and there is no cheaper way to get a compliant building. There is a possibility of lawsuit and injury with the current facilities. When the new station is opened the empty space will be turned over to fire department to store equipment. Approving the building of a new police station will add approximately \$62 per year to real estate taxes on a home valued at \$250,000.

Purchasing and rehabbing the Bethlehem Bible Church is the most cost effective option to acquire a new senior center. The proposed senior center will provide all the required amenities in 10,000 sq. ft. Some folks oppose the project because they want a new building. Approving the senior center purchasing and improvements will add approximately \$28 per year to real estate taxes on a home valued at \$250,000.

Finance Committee will provide an opinion of the financing on both projects but no opinion to endorse or oppose either project is being offered.

Moved by Ray: In regards to the police station and senior center proposals, the finance committee finds that the logic and finance methodology to be well founded. The motion was seconded by Dave. The vote was unanimous in favor.

**Article 4** proposes monies be encumbered for affordable housing and fencing at the Little League field. Chris moved that the Finance committee recommend the affordable housing proposal. Dave seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 in favor.  
B fencing at the little league field. Dave Chris in favor

**Article 5** proposes monies be encumbered to purchase a hot mix box for the DPW. Ray estimates the return on investment is 7-9 years. DPW estimates the labor savings to be approximately 200+ hours per year. In addition the quality of work will be better. DPW will be able to recycle old asphalt instead of paying disposal costs.

Ray moved to endorse the purchase of the asphalt re-melter. Dave seconded the motion. It was approved by a vote of 4-1.

**Article 6.** The Open Space Implementation Committee proposes \$15,000 be set aside to fund a new open space and recreation plan. The amount will be funded from free cash. A valid open space plan is needed for the 40 b requirements. Chris moved to approve Article 6. Pat seconded the motion. It was approved by a vote of 4-1.

**Article 7.** The town clerk proposes \$6,642 to purchase new voting machines which are required due to changes in Massachusetts voting law. The new law mandates early voting be available for all residents. The law also requires that all voting machines be counted in the place they are located. The machine can't be moved until it is counted and it can't be counted until the polls close on Election Day. The machine for early vote will be located in town hall. The new machines are required to keep the town in compliance with state law.

Dave moved to endorse Article 7 with the clarification that the purchase is required to keep town compliant with state voting laws. Ray seconded the motion. It was approved by a vote of 5-0.

**Article 8.** The superintendent proposes approximately \$17,000 to install electric outlets next to the classroom ceiling projectors. The quote is \$325 per outlet or a total of approximately \$17,000. Chris moved to approve article 8 with the monies to be explicitly used to install the outlets. Any excess monies will be returned to free cash. Dave seconded the motion. It was approved by a vote of 5-0.

**Article 9.** The Parks Department proposes \$6,500 be designated for the purchase of two storage units located at the ball fields. The town is currently paying \$1,700 to rent the two units. Chris moved to approve article 9. Dave seconded the motion. It was approved by a vote of 5-0.

Dave moved to table articles 10 & 11 until further clarification is received. Pavel seconded the motion. It was approved by a vote of 5-0.

**Article 12** lists a variety of free cash uses. The committee is seeking additional input from the acting town manager.

**Article 13** Funding the stabilization Fund. Ray moved to recommend \$90,000 be transferred to stabilization fund. Chris seconded the motion. It was approved by a vote of 5-0.

**Article 14.** Pat moved to transfer balance of free cash to capital investment fund. Dave seconded the motion. It was approved by a vote of 5-0.

The committee will ask the town manager to provide further clarification of uses of revenue in article 12 and information on articles 10 & 11;

The meeting adjourned at 8:30.