March 19th, 2018 Minutes

Finance Committee Meeting

**Present:** Patricia-Lee Achorn, Charles Goodman, Ira Miller, Gordon Gladstone, Daniel Lewenberg, Alexander Korin, Hanna Switlekowski, Anja Bernier, Edward Phillips and Arnold Cohen.

**Absent:** William Brack

1. **Board of Health Nuisance Article and FY19 initiatives - Beverly Anderson (Pending Confirmation)**

Beverly Anderson, Health Administrator and Chuck Levine, Board of Health member presented Article-18 General By-Law Change: Board of Health Nuisance Fines.

* Request is to amend the General Bylaws, now allowing the Board of Health to collect fines due to nuisances and dangers to public health.

**MOTION:** by Ira Miller **SECONDED:** by Arnold Cohen **VOTED:** 9-1-0. Alexander Korin opposed.

Beverly Anderson, Health Administrator and Chuck Levine, Chair of the Board of Health presented FY19 Initiatives.

* First request is to use the recycling revolving funds for interim financing in emergency situations regarding innovative and alternative septic systems.
* The fund has grown since 2003 due to the annual fee of $25.00 for homeowners and $100.00 for businesses.
* 40 homes and 10 businesses are currently affected.
* The fund holds $17,000.
* Second request is to use the money to address public health emergency needs, pay for temporary staffing in an emergency event, support disease outreach programs and provide infection disease trainings for board of health and staff.
* The fund currently holds $43,000.

1. **The Personnel Board Article 4 – Fred Turkington and Michael Feldman**

Michael Feldman, Chair of the Personnel Board, presented Article 4.

* Fifteen towns were surveyed, including 12 comparable towns and three adjacent towns, at the job description level.
* The median minimum and maximal salaries were calculated to determine Sharon minimum and maximal salary ranges per position.
* 10% was added to the maximum salary range to assure that no incumbent would reach maximum before the next three-year survey.
* The maximum salary for each range was tested against three years of salary growth at 3%.
* The minimum and maximum salary ranges will be in place for three years.
* This equation will be used going forward.

1. **Town Counsel to Review Marijuana Legal Framework and Cannabis Control Commission Regulations - Lisa Wayland**

The Finance Committee members proposed four questions to Lisa Wayland regarding the Marijuana Legal Framework and the Cannabis Control Commission Regulations.

1. Is there now a valid medical marijuana license?

* A provisional license has been issued for a medical facility in Sharon.

1. Can that license be rescinded?

* If there are any violation or it is not used within a certain time frame. Besides that, the town has no involvement.

1. Does the licensee have the absolute right to convert?

* They have priority conversion. The town cannot enact a zoning bylaw. If the town had a band in effect that would block. The town has a moratorium however, and that is not clarified if it would cause a complete ban.

1. Can the town prevent conversion?

* The only way a town can prevent conversion (as of now) is if the town back in December had a zoning bylaw and also had a ballot question that had passed. None of these things occurred, therefore the answer is no.

1. Can the town prevent issuance of additional licenses either recreational or medical?

* It is dependent on what happens at Town Meeting.

Lisa Wayland, Town Attorney presented the options residents will consider at Town Meeting.

Option 1: Zoning amendment to ban retail establishments

● Town Meeting 2/3 vote required

● Ballot vote (majority) to affirm town meeting vote

Open question: Will this be effective to prohibit conversion of existing RMD?

* Whether this option passes or fails, town meeting should still consider and vote on Options 2 and 3, as Option 1 is contingent on the subsequent ballot vote. If the ballot vote fails, the TM vote under Option 1 will be void. Without any zoning regulation in effect, a ME can be located in any district.

\*NOTE: that ballot question must be identical to TM vote.

Option 2: Regulate MEs by special permit in the LI district

● Town meeting 2/3 vote required

● No ballot question required

\*Same special permit process as RMDs, adult entertainment.

Option 3: If Option 2 passes, the town can add a limitation to the number of retailers of 20% of package stores (or 1, in Sharon)

● Town Meeting 2/3 vote required

● Ballot vote also required

\*If passed, the converted RMD will count as Sharon’s 1 retailer; no further retailers will be allowed.

Option 4: Extend moratorium

● Town meeting 2/3 vote required

● No ballot vote required

Open question: Whether a moratorium will be considered an effective “ban” to prevent conversion or additional retailers in Sharon.

Connie Dai of Sharon Cares stated that in her opinion, commercialization equals to normalization. She asked the public to consider, is this the integrity of the town? And is this the message we want to send our children?

When concerns were raised regarding the police and other significant costs, Brian Striar of 4 Daughters Compassionate Care stated that they would consider paying the fees up front to combat those costs.

1. **Discuss and Vote FY2019 Operating and Capital Budgets and Financial Articles – Committee**

**MOTION:** by Anja Bernier to recommend the appropriation of $13,663,962 for the Selectman’s sector, $1,233,224 for the FinCom sector, $20,109,624 for the fixed/uncontrollable line-items and $43,818,836 for the School Committee sector **SECONDED:** by Gordon Gladstone **VOTED:** 10-0-0.

**MOTION:** by Gordon Gladstone to recommend the appropriation of $3,553,144 for the Norfolk County Retirement System (general fund employer contribution) **SECONDED:** by Hanna Switlekowski **VOTED:** 10-0-0.

**MOTION:** by Gordon Gladstone to recommend the appropriation of $75,000 for unemployment compensation fund **SECONDED:** by Anja Bernier **VOTED:** 10-0-0.

**MOTION:** by Alexander Korin to recommend the appropriation of $300,000 for the OPEB trust fund **SECONDED:** by Arnold Cohen **VOTED:** 10-0-0.

**MOTION:** by Gordon Gladstone to recommend the appropriation of $30,000 for assessment inspection and valuation services **SECONDED:** by Anja Bernier **VOTED:** 10-0-0.

**MOTION:** by Gordon Gladstone to recommend the appropriation of $63,500 for annual audit services **SECONDED:** by Anja Bernier **VOTED:** 10-0-0.

1. **Documents Distributed Since Last Meeting**

* Planning board slides
* Mass Gov Accountant Policies on Revolving Funds
* Draft of Article 4
* Notice from Marlene Chused regarding Pre-Town Meeting on April 30th at 7:00 pm.

1. **Vote Minutes**

**MOTION:** by Gordon Gladstone to approve the March 15th, 2018 minutes with an amendment made “to start the planning process” in the Municipal Aggregation Article motion **SECONDED:** by Anja Bernier **VOTED:** 9-0-1. Daniel Lewenberg abstained.

1. **Adjournment**

**MOTION:** by Ira Miller to adjourn **SECONDED:** by Anja Bernier **VOTED:** 10-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 pm.