

Finance Committee Meeting
Minutes – September 9, 2013
Town Hall, Lower Level Hearing Room, 7:30 P.M.

Members Present: Patricia-Lee Achorn, William Brack, Arnold Cohen, Gordon Gladstone, Charles Goodman, Alexander Korin, Ira Miller, Edward Philips
Absent: Aaron Agulnek, Michael Fish, Laura Nelson

1. Bill Brack announced that Michael Fish has given his resignation to the committee. The agenda was to discuss the Fall Town Meeting articles and discuss the budget. Alex Korin is liaison to the School Committee. This Wednesday night's agenda is discussion on benchmarking process. After their discussion, we will have them come in and also the Personnel Board. Another update is that the Planning Board has given us a Reserve Fund Transfer request for \$20,000 on the Bella Estates. We did not receive the Reserve Fund Transfer request we voted two weeks ago. Follow up with Conservation Commission. There is no ability to move printing date. We have to keep the original schedule, October 17.
2. Bill Brack stated that both Sacred Heart and the Community Preservation Committee would be at the Selectmen's meeting on September 19th and the CPC was meeting after the Selectmen's meeting. Both Sacred Heart Reuse Chair, Karen Friedman, and Corey Snow, Chair, CPC, would be scheduled to attend the September 23rd Finance Committee meeting.
3. Bill Brack assigned articles for write-ups to Gordon Gladstone, meals tax, and Arnie Cohen, the zoning article, Adult Entertainment.
4. The first item on the agenda was the list of articles and the draft Warrant for the Fall Town Meeting.
5. Article 11. Billboard authorization to lease land – Route one. Ben Puritz announced that the Selectmen awarded a contract for digital billboard. This will net \$1.5M at single location over 25 year term. This will give Selectmen authority to lease town land.
6. There was some discussion on this article.
7. Article 12. General by-laws – sign by-law (optional, but suggest we address issue of digital sign for upcoming leases) and Article 13. General by-laws – town report distribution (optional).
8. Ben Puritz stated that with the changes in technology there are other ways to make the report available. There is also the cost and delivery. Printing 6500 reports. The town could save about \$10,000.
9. There was some discussion regarding Article 12.
10. Article 14. Meal's tax. 6.25% to 7%. Sponsored by Selectmen.
11. Article 1. Sacred Heart Field/Open Space site development/construction.

12. There was discussion held on Article 1. Sacred Heart and CPC were to be scheduled for September 23rd Finance Committee meeting.
13. Article 2. Refuse disposal contract authorization – possible SEMASS/Covanta extension?
14. Ben Puritz indicated that a request for a proposal on SEMASS went out last week.
15. Article 3. AT&T 411 East Foxboro Street cellular facility re-authorization/case settlement.
16. There was some discussion on Article 3.
17. Ben Puritz stated the vote was for the lease of land that cellular was on.
18. Article 4. Add \$\$ to stabilization fund. The policy voted on by Board of Selectmen this past week.
19. There was considerable discussion on Article 4. This was to restore the town's bond credit rating. Additional interest cost of ¼ point. Would need \$300,000 to \$400,000 in the Stabilization Fund. 1% is \$86 on the tax bill.
20. Article 6. \$610K for roadway improvements – cash pay down FY'12 revenue source not expressed. Bill Fowler stated that the town move from debt to cash.
21. Ben Puritz updated the status of Brickstone that they must submit their finished article this week to be considered for this fall town meeting.
22. There was some discussion regarding the Brickstone cluster zoning subdivision and a site plan approval rather than special permit.
23. The next item on the agenda was the budget format.
24. Bill Fowler presented a format that he had done for the City of Somerville that could be adapted for Sharon.
25. There was some discussion on a common budget format.
26. The next item on the agenda regarded a request from Peter O'Cain, for a Reserve Fund Transfer for \$20,000 relative to Bella Estates. The Planning Board has expended to date, \$5,300. Current over expense, \$2,800. Peter O'Cain and the Planning Board Chair to come in next Monday.
27. BenPuritz stated there would be a hearing by the Planning Board on September 25. There were outstanding public improvements such as roads, trees, and street lights.
28. Bill Fowler stated that six lots were foreclosed. At auction they went to another party. Two developers on the same property. One with six lots and one with one lot.
29. There was some discussion on this transfer request and that it could go to the Law Budget.
30. There was some discussion on scheduling meetings and reviewing articles with proponents.

31. There was a suggestion that Lisa Whelan could come in on September 16th to discuss the following articles: 3. AT&T, 411 East Foxboro Street cellular facility re-authorization/case settlement; 10. Adult Zoning; 11. Billboard authorization to lease land – Route One; 12. General by-laws – sign by-law (optional, but suggest we address issue of digital sign for upcoming leases). Articles 13. General by-laws – town report distribution (optional) and 14. Meals tax – 6.25% to 7%. The Finance Committee will discuss these, and Peter O’Cain for Reserve Fund Transfer.
32. The next meeting will be on September 16, 2013.
33. It was **MOVED** and **SECONDED** to adjourn.
34. **VOTED:** 8-0-0.
35. The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m.