

Finance Committee Meeting

Minutes – July 14, 2014

Town Hall, Lower Level Hearing Room, 7:30 P.M.

Members Present: William Brack, Arnold Cohen (late), Gordon Gladstone, Charles Goodman, Alexander Korin, Ira Miller, Laura Nelson, Edward Philips (Hamilton)

Absent: Patricia-Lee Achorn, Aaron Agulnek

1. The first item on the agenda was to introduce Fred Turkington, our Town Administrator in waiting, to share his background and where he was in the process.
2. Fred Turkington stated that his start date was on August 18. He would be meeting with Department Heads to see what's going on. He has been a Town Manager for 27 years. He went to Bates College and the University of Connecticut Graduate School. Sharon would be the fourth community he has worked in. He was in Wayland for eight years. He lives in Weymouth. He worked 50-60 hours a week and was in the office all day and a couple nights a week.
3. There was some discussion regarding more transparent communication and planning. There was a strong desire to doing planning beyond the one year budget and to figure out what the next three, four, or five years look like.
4. There was much discussion regarding benchmarks of comparable towns. They had used the Wayland model. There was a suggestion to look at the Sudbury model.
5. There was some discussion on having a planning meeting with Selectmen, School, and the new Town Administrator prior to budget scheduling.
6. There was much discussion regarding Town Meeting schedule and not enough time or information to make a decision. The new Town Administrator spoke about his experience with Town Meeting issues from his viewpoint in Wayland.
7. A September 8 date was suggested to continue discussion on Town Meeting issues and the schedule.
8. There was a suggestion to meet with the Town Administrator before the budget information was distributed to Department Heads in order to provide guidance to the Finance Committee. The new Town Administrator was agreeable and also wanted to include Priorities in the discussion.
9. The next item on the agenda was to elect a second Vice Chair.
10. A **MOTION** was made by Bill Brack and **SECONDED** by Ira Miller to nominate Ted Philips as second Vice Chair.

11. Ted Philips accepted the nomination.
12. **VOTED:** 7-0-1. For: Brack, Cohen, Gladstone, Goodman, Korin, Miller, Nelson. Abstain: Philips.
13. There was some discussion regarding a Finance Committee website.
14. Alex Korin stated that he did create it, but the committee didn't use it.
15. There was a suggestion to enter the Warrant articles on this website and have Alex Korin show the committee how this website would work at a future meeting.
16. Bill Brack received a Reserve Fund Transfer request for \$6,500 regarding One School Street that he will scan and send to the committee, Selectmen, Superintendent of Schools and Public Works so everybody is informed. This was not included in the budget cycle.
17. There was a suggestion to put it on the schedule for August or September and have all parties concerned at the meeting.
18. There was some discussion regarding this request and comments that the Reserve Fund Transfer was not the way to handle it.
19. The last item was Steve Ross, who was interested in the empty Finance Committee seat.
20. There was some discussion on the procedure to fill the vacancy, and it was determined that the committee makes that decision after Town Meeting is over and can vote someone in or wait until the Annual Town Meeting. The committee will see if there is any interest and will evaluate later in the summer.
21. There was a suggestion for a meeting on July 28, on comparable towns and website review, and then later in August after Fred Turkington is on board, possibly August 25.
22. The next meeting will be July 28, 2014.
23. It was **MOVED** and **SECONDED** to adjourn.
24. **VOTED:** 8-0-0.
25. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.