

Finance Committee Meeting

Minutes – October 6, 2014

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

Members Present: Patricia-Lee Achorn, William Brack, Arnold Cohen, Gordon Gladstone, Charles Goodman, Ira Miller, Edward Philips (Hamilton)

Absent: Aaron Agulnek, Alexander Korin, Laura Nelson

1. The first item on the agenda was Article 5, Purchase of 175 Pond Street.
2. Bill Heitin explained that this was a year-long process. The parcel is directly adjacent to the high school. A collaborative effort with the School Committee and the Selectmen. The purchase price was finalized at \$317,500. Assessed at \$331,800. An expansion to high school to have parcel available. Agreed to defer some outstanding taxes, between \$9,000 and \$15,000. Demolishing building. Cost could range from \$22,000 to \$45,000, added to \$317,500. If DPW does demolition, could be less.
3. There was some discussion regarding this purchase. The School Committee voted 5-1 to support the purchase of 175 Pond Street. The School Superintendent indicated it could be five years before they would need to use that land.
4. There was some discussion on the use of the property and long-term planning. Possibility of adding a Science Wing to the high school.
5. The next item on the agenda was Article 6, CPC – Library Palladium Windows – Old quotes are no longer being honored. Lee Ann received a new quote for \$20,908.75 and \$19,000 was already approved. She is requesting \$2,500.
6. Lee Ann Amend, Library Director, explained that the new quote asked for an additional \$2,500. No change to that proposal for safety windows. The original quote from Heritage was a 100% increase. She needed to call other companies for quotes.
7. Corey Snow, CPC Chair, stated this would be in the Historic category. Want to make sure appropriation covered safety grates. We have another meeting tomorrow night. That is the only thing on the agenda.
8. The next item on the agenda was Article 3, Re-appropriate funds approved at 2014 Annual Town Meeting for Library.
9. Fred Turkington stated that Town Meeting was asked for \$25,000 for a match to spend \$50,000. They were led to believe it would be spent regardless of grant. Ask citizens to spend money without state grant.
10. There was much discussion regarding Article 3 on where the money was coming from.
11. Lee Ann Amend explained that they have a Reserve Fund in order to make repairs. The Library is going to move forward with the feasibility study. The Library needs the \$25,000 from the town.

12. The next item on the agenda was Article 6, CPC – Sharon Housing Authority request for \$45,000 for Window Replacement at South Pleasant Street School Family Housing Development.
13. Corey Snow explained that the appropriation request is for South Pleasant Street building. Used for family housing. Owned by Housing Authority. Grant money to do a major window and roof replacement. 75 windows. \$120,000 total cost. Grant of \$75,000 received from CPA. \$45,000 in matching funds to get rest of funding. Requires matching funds to get grant. Comes from State Housing Authority. FHA money passing through state housing.
14. There was some discussion on this part of Article 6 for the Sharon Housing Authority to request an appropriation of \$45,000 in matching funds to do a project of \$156,000.
15. The next item on the agenda was Chief James Wright with Article 4, Re-allocation of funds for Fire Department and appropriate additional funds for portable radios.
16. Chief Wright stated that this was a Capital request from last year. We had \$38,000 from similar article. Interface with air pack. Spent money on piece of equipment that wasn't going to work. Move into similar project for portable radio. Eleven or twelve years old. Pushed up to this current time frame to expedite process.
17. Chief Wright stated that \$38,000 was left over and they want to move this over to this article. An additional \$45,000 is needed. We have secured \$8,435 matching grant from MEMA. Available funds \$88,797. Price quote, \$87,672. Programming software and cable so we can program ourselves. This request will handle the radios. No capital request for next year. Funds coming from Ambulance Reserve. We use that money every year towards our annual budget, \$525,000. We used \$650,000 this fiscal year. When we buy an ambulance, we will move money to purchase the ambulance. \$605,795 in Ambulance Reserve Account. \$275,000 for ambulance. All our receipts from this year will go into the account.
18. There was some discussion regarding Article 4.
19. The next item on the agenda was to go over the rest of the articles.
20. Article 7. Southeastern's request for stabilization fund article. School Committee included line item in budget each year to establish stabilization fund.
21. A **MOTION** was made by Ira Miller and **SECONDED** by Gordon Gladstone to not recommend approval of Article 7.
22. There was some discussion regarding Article 7. It was indicated that the Sharon representative, Mindy Kempner, to the School Committee should be invited to attend the next meeting to discuss the stabilization fund.
23. Gordon Gladstone withdrew his second on the motion.
24. Article 8. Town Report distribution – general by-law change.
25. There was some discussion on Article 8. Fred Turkington will notify the committee if this article is being withdrawn.

26. Article 9. Animal control by-law update. Fred Turkington went over the changes to the by-law.
27. Selectmen have not taken a position on the Warrant articles. They will do that at October 14 meeting.
28. The Finance Committee will meet on Thursday, October 16 at 7:30. Write-ups: Arnie: Article 6. Gordon: Articles 3 and 4. Ted: Article 5. Alex: Article 1. Pat: Article 2. Laura: Article 9. Article 8: hold. May be out. Ira: Article 7.
29. The next meeting will be on Thursday, October 16, 2014. There will be a meeting on October 20, if necessary.
30. It was **MOVED** and **SECONDED** to adjourn.
31. **VOTED:** 7-0-0.
32. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.