

Finance Committee Meeting

Minutes – March 30, 2015

Town Hall, Lower Level Hearing Room, 8:30 P.M.

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

Absent: Aaron Agulnek

1. Bill Brack, Chair, explained that this meeting immediately followed the Priorities Committee meeting. Voted at Priorities unanimously. There were two votes. One was to adjust the most recent spreadsheet adding \$625,000 one-time revenue to bring the tax rate to 5%. The second vote was to have allocation of the process based on budgets used in the spreadsheet. Part of our budget review.
2. The next agenda item was review of open budget issues and FY'16 budget. Two Warrant articles, Articles 4 and 5. Article 4 is Personnel. Vote on Article 5. Budget & Compensation of Elected Officials.
3. There was considerable discussion regarding the Board of Health Budget and changes in personnel and added expenses. Then discussion on Town Clerk's salary.
4. A **MOTION** was made by Chuck Goodman and **SECONDED** by Pat Achorn to raise Town Clerk's salary 3%.
5. There was some discussion on the Town Clerk's salary.
6. A **MOTION** was made by Gordon Gladstone and **SECONDED** by Ira Miller to amend Town Clerk's salary to 3.5%.
7. Motion was 3%.
8. **VOTED:** 6-2-1. For: Achorn, Brack, Gladstone, Korin, Miller, Philips. Against: Cohen, Nelson. Abstain: Goodman.
9. Amended motion was 3.5% salary increase, budget to be \$146,111 total.
10. **VOTED:** 6-2-1. For: Achorn, Brack, Gladstone, Korin, Miller, Philips. Against: Cohen, Nelson. Abstain: Goodman.
11. A **MOTION** was made by Ira Miller and **SECONDED** by Ted Philips to increase the Finance Committee sector budget by \$2,702 for a total budget of \$522,518.
12. **VOTED:** 7-2-0. For: Achorn, Brack, Gladstone, Goodman, Korin, Miller, Philips. Against: Cohen, Nelson.
13. Selectmen's Department budget decreased to \$401,537. Selectmen's sector budget decreased to \$13,110,678.

14. Article 4. Personnel By-Law. The structure regarding the new pay ranges of each of the executives, all union, non-union, part-timers. The actual, based on recommendation by Personnel from Selectmen.
15. A **MOTION** was made by Laura Nelson and **SECONDED** by Arnie Cohen to modify Article 4 increases from 3%, 3.25%, 3.5% to 2%. 2.25%. 2.5%.
16. **VOTED:** 3-6-0. For: Cohen, Korin, Nelson. Against: Achorn, Brack, Gladstone, Goodman, Miller, Philips.
17. A **MOTION** was made by Ira Miller and **SECONDED** by Ted Philips to adopt Article 4 as presented.
18. **VOTED:** 7-2-0. For: Achorn, Brack, Gladstone, Goodman, Korin, Miller, Philips. Against: Cohen, Nelson.
19. A **MOTION** was made by Ira Miller and **SECONDED** by Alex Korin to support Article 5. Budget & Compensation of Elected Officials as presented. Finance Committee: \$522,518; Selectmen: \$13,110,678; School: \$39,991,533; Fixed & Uncontrollable: \$24,203,180; Total Budget: \$77,827,929. Water Department: \$4,393,077.
20. There was some discussion regarding the Water Department and amount from cell tower leases it will receive.
21. **VOTED:** 6-3-0. For: Achorn, Brack, Gladstone, Goodman, Miller, Philips. Against: Cohen, Korin, Nelson.
22. There was continued discussion on how to control use of one-time revenue for capital in addition to planning process.
23. Special Article 3. Snow & Ice.
24. A **MOTION** was made by Pat Achorn and **SECONDED** by Ted Philips to make their recommendation at Town Meeting.
25. **VOTED:** 9-0-0. For: Achorn, Brack, Cohen, Gladstone, Goodman, Korin, Miller, Nelson, Philips.
26. A **MOTION** was made by Ira Miller and **SECONDED** by Gordon Gladstone to support Special Article 5. Reserve money from one-time cell tower revenue for use for the FY2016 Appropriation by authorizing pre-use for FY'16 appropriation \$625,000 from cell tower revenue.
27. **VOTED:** 8-1-0. For: Achorn, Brack, Cohen, Gladstone, Goodman, Korin, Miller, Philips. Against: Nelson.
28. Article 1. Finance Committee Members.
29. A **MOTION** was made by Laura Nelson and **SECONDED** by Arnie Cohen to support Article 1. Finance Committee Members by supporting the Nominating Committee.

30. **VOTED:** 9-0-0. For: Achorn, Brack, Cohen, Gladstone, Goodman, Korin, Miller, Nelson, Philips.
31. Article 6. Capital Outlay.
32. A **MOTION** was made by Ted Philips and **SECONDED** by Pat Achorn to support Article 6A. DPW, in the amount of \$789,350 for various Capital items.
33. **VOTED:** 5-4-0. For: Achorn, Brack, Gladstone, Miller, Philips. Against: Cohen, Goodman, Korin, Nelson.
34. A **MOTION** was made by Alex Korin and **SECONDED** by Ira Miller to reconsider the previous vote.
35. **VOTED:** 9-0-0. For: Achorn, Brack, Cohen, Gladstone, Goodman, Korin, Miller, Nelson, Philips.
36. A **MOTION** was made by Gordon Gladstone and **SECONDED** by Laura Nelson to support Article 6A. Capital Outlay Requests for DPW in the amount of \$390,000 for roads.
37. **VOTED:** 9-0-0. For: Achorn, Brack, Cohen, Gladstone, Goodman, Korin, Miller, Nelson, Philips.
38. A **MOTION** was made by Gordon Gladstone and **SECONDED** by Ted Philips to support Article 6B. Capital Outlay Requests for DPW in the amount of \$344,350 for vehicle equipment.
39. **VOTED:** 9-0-0. For: Achorn, Brack, Cohen, Gladstone, Goodman, Korin, Miller, Nelson, Philips.
40. A **MOTION** was made by Gordon Gladstone and **SECONDED** by Ted Philips to support Article 6C. Capital Outlay Requests for DPW building improvements in the amount of \$55,000 to study Town Hall and the Fire Station.
41. **VOTED:** 5-4-0. For: Achorn, Brack, Gladstone, Miller, Philips. Against: Cohen, Goodman, Korin, Nelson.
42. A **MOTION** was made by Gordon Gladstone and **SECONDED** by Ted Philips to support Article 6D. Capital Outlay Requests for the School Department technology in the amount of \$380,000.
43. A **MOTION** was made by Arnie Cohen and **SECONDED** by Alex Korin to amend the previous motion by reducing both Mac Book Airs and laptops by 50%.
44. There was some discussion on the motion.
45. Gordon Gladstone withdrew his motion.
46. Arnie Cohen withdrew his motion.
47. A **MOTION** was made by Gordon Gladstone and **SECONDED** by Ted Philips to make their recommendation at Town Meeting on Article 6D. Capital Outlay Request for School Department in the amount of \$650,000 for equipment.

48. **VOTED:** 9-0-0. For: Achorn, Brack, Cohen, Gladstone, Goodman, Korin, Miller, Nelson, Philips.
49. A **MOTION** was made by Gordon Gladstone and **SECONDED** by Ted Philips to support Article 6E. Capital Outlay Request for School Department in the amount of \$15,000 for furniture.
50. **VOTED:** 8-1-0. For: Achorn, Brack, Cohen, Gladstone, Goodman, Korin, Miller, Philips. Against: Nelson.
51. A **MOTION** was made by Gordon Gladstone and **SECONDED** by Pat Achorn to support Article 6F. Capital Outlay Request for School Department in the amount of \$121,000 for school buildings.
52. **VOTED:** 9-0-0. For: Achorn, Brack, Cohen, Gladstone, Goodman, Korin, Miller, Nelson, Philips.
53. A **MOTION** was made by Gordon Gladstone and **SECONDED** by Pat Achorn to support Article 6G. Capital Outlay Request for School Department in the amount of \$243,950 for Heights roof design services.
54. **VOTED:** 9-0-0. For: Achorn, Brack, Cohen, Gladstone, Goodman, Korin, Miller, Nelson, Philips.
55. A **MOTION** was made by Gordon Gladstone and **SECONDED** by Ira Miller to support Articles 6H and 6I. Capital Outlay Request for the Fire Department in the amount of \$50,000 for a truck and \$275,000 for ambulance for a total of \$325,000.
56. **VOTED:** 9-0-0. For: Achorn, Brack, Cohen, Gladstone, Goodman, Korin, Miller, Nelson, Philips.
57. A **MOTION** was made by Gordon Gladstone and **SECONDED** by Laura Nelson to support Article 6J. Capital Outlay Request for the Police Department in the amount of \$21,000 for a fingerprint scanner.
58. **VOTED:** 9-0-0. For: Achorn, Brack, Cohen, Gladstone, Goodman, Korin, Miller, Nelson, Philips.
59. A **MOTION** was made by Gordon Gladstone and **SECONDED** by Alex Korin to support Article 6K. Capital Outlay Request for the Library in the amount of \$68,000 for carpeting.
60. **VOTED:** 9-0-0. For: Achorn, Brack, Cohen, Gladstone, Goodman, Korin, Miller, Nelson, Philips.
61. A **MOTION** was made by Gordon Gladstone and **SECONDED** by Ted Philips to support Article 6L. Capital Outlay Request for the Recreation Department in the amount of \$52,000 for repairs to tennis court and repairs to restrooms at Ames Street playground.
62. **VOTED:** 8-1-0. For: Achorn, Brack, Cohen, Gladstone, Goodman, Korin, Miller, Philips. Against: Nelson.
63. A **MOTION** was made by Gordon Gladstone and **SECONDED** by Pat Achorn to support Article 6M. Capital Outlay Request for Civil Defense in the amount of \$15,000 for lighting tower trailer.

64. **VOTED:** 7-2-0. For: Achorn, Brack, Gladstone, Goodman, Korin, Miller, Philips. Against: Cohen, Nelson.
65. A **MOTION** was made by Gordon Gladstone and **SECONDED** by Pat Achorn to support Article 6N. Capital Outlay Request for Civil Defense in the amount of \$15,000 from FY'14 to be rescinded for repairs not made to building to be demolished.
66. **VOTED:** 9-0-0. For: Achorn, Brack, Cohen, Gladstone, Goodman, Korin, Miller, Nelson, Philips.
67. Article 7. CPC Annual Funding & Projects.
68. A **MOTION** was made by Ted Philips and **SECONDED** by Alex Korin to support Article 7. CPC Annual Funding & Projects as written but not to exceed \$430,000 for the Hammershop Pond Dam Repair and Restoration.
69. **VOTED:** 9-0-0. For: Achorn, Brack, Cohen, Gladstone, Goodman, Korin, Miller, Nelson, Philips.
70. Article 10. OPEB.
71. A **MOTION** was made by Ira Miller and **SECONDED** by Pat Achorn to support Article 10. OPEB in the amount of \$100,000, current balance is \$50,000.
72. **VOTED:** 8-1-0. For: Achorn, Brack, Cohen, Goodman, Korin, Miller, Nelson, Philips. Against: Gladstone.
73. Article 11. Stabilization Fund. \$100,000. Would not receive improved bond rating from Moody's until more reserves.
74. A **MOTION** was made by Laura Nelson and **SECONDED** by Gordon Gladstone to not recommend Article 11. Stabilization Fund.
75. **VOTED:** 3-6-0. For: Gladstone, Korin, Nelson. Against: Achorn, Brack, Cohen, Goodman, Miller, Philips.
76. A **MOTION** was made by Ira Miller and **SECONDED** by Alex Korin to support Article 11. Stabilization Fund in the amount of \$75,000 instead of \$100,000.
77. **VOTED:** 3-6-0. For: Brack, Korin, Miller. Against: Achorn, Cohen, Gladstone, Goodman, Nelson, Philips.
78. A **MOTION** was made by Ted Philips and **SECONDED** by Pat Achorn to support Article 11. Stabilization Fund in the amount of \$100,000.
79. **VOTED:** 5-4-0. For: Achorn, Brack, Cohen, Goodman, Philips. Against: Gladstone, Korin, Miller, Nelson.
80. A **MOTION** was made by Ted Philips and **SECONDED** by Gordon Gladstone to make their recommendation at Town Meeting on Article 18. Civil Service Rescission.

81. **VOTED:** 9-0-0. For: Achorn, Brack, Cohen, Gladstone, Goodman, Korin, Miller, Nelson, Philips.

82. There will be no meeting Wednesday, April 1.

83. It was **MOVED** and **SECONDED** to adjourn.

84. **VOTED:** 9-0-0.

85. The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 p.m.