

Finance Committee Meeting

Minutes – March 23, 2015

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

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

Absent: Patricia-Lee Achorn, Laura Nelson

1. First item on the agenda was Southeastern Regional Vocational Technical School FY'16 budget with Mark Morris, Business Manager, and Mindy Kempner, School Committee Representative.
2. Mark Morris stated that their enrollment has increased 4.4%. This past year the school was given a bill of \$600,000 from the State Retirement Board. Employees, other than teachers, now under state retirement. They waived 2013. \$600,000 a year. Responsible from FY'16 forward. Seeking legal counsel. FY'16 budget approved on March 10, \$22,563,560. School Committee has voted not to assess the communities.
3. There was much discussion regarding the Southeastern Regional Vocational Technical School budget and how the school is transitioning into more academic areas.
4. The next item was the review of Capital Outlay budget with Paul Linehan, Chair.
5. Paul Linehan explained the summary of all Capital requests that were approved. Make recommendation two years in advance. Come before Town Meeting the year after the fiscal year. We opted for debt reduction vs. strictly borrowing. 6.5% guideline for net operating budget. Possibility of requesting 6% as a goal. Amount for borrowing, \$1,985,100.
6. There was considerable discussion on the Capital Outlay request items, especially the laptops for the school.
7. The next item was to review with Corey Snow, Chair, of the Community Preservation Committee, Article 7. CPC Annual Funding & Projects in the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.
8. One project was Document Preservation (Historical Society, Library & Town Clerk). Restoration of those that have critical need. The Community Preservation Committee has recommended all items on projects.
9. Water Department Project. This has to do with soffits and bricks themselves. It is an historic building.
10. Hammershop Pond Dam is controversial project. It has been declared unsafe and needs to have extensive repairs, \$400,000 estimate. Bring in compliance with state regulations. Today was unanimous vote. Historical in favor of repairing. \$200,000 to breach dam.
11. The next project was the Pergola, \$45,000, part of the Adult Center and Recreation Department. The vote was unanimous.

12. Corey Snow stated no expectation of any action going to be taken on the wall on Brook Road and N. Main Street.
13. Main expenses are secretary, annual membership in preservation membership organization, \$1,500. Our variable costs are legal, \$20,000 total request.
14. There was some discussion on the Community Preservation Committee's Warrant article.
15. There was some discussion regarding the Personnel Board budget, the Police Chief's retirement, and also salary changes and recognition.
16. The next item was a Priorities update.
17. Ira Miller gave an update on the Priorities meeting. After consulting with Town Clerk about voting members, there was no allowance, in her opinion, for an alternate member to represent the School Committee. Suggested no vote be taken. There wasn't full contingency from School Committee. Motion meeting be suspended. I suggested we reconsider to have discussion with members there without taking any action. The School member, the alternate, left and other member stayed in the audience. The Selectmen, Chuck and I had discussion. What would be appropriate amount for allocation and revenue estimate, and to what the tax rate would be increased. Tried to shave percentage off that larger increase over last year and current year proposed increase. No agreement with the group. There was no consensus how to proceed, other than wait until full contingent of Priorities next Monday.
18. There was considerable discussion on how to reduce expenses on operating budget, start budget discussions early in year, September or October, and suggestion to use one-time revenue to reduce taxes.
19. A **MOTION** was made by Gordon Gladstone and **SECONDED** by Alex Korin to authorize Chuck Goodman and Ira Miller to use \$700,000 one-time revenue to reduce tax increase.
20. **VOTED:** 7-0-1. For: Brack, Cohen, Gladstone, Goodman, Korin, Miller, Philips. Abstain: Agulnek.
21. The next item was to vote on Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles.
22. A **MOTION** was made by Alex Korin and **SECONDED** by Ted Philips to support Special Article 1. Transfer of funds for codification project in the amount of \$13,100.
23. **VOTED:** 8-0-0. For: Agulnek, Brack, Cohen, Gladstone, Goodman, Korin, Miller, Philips.
24. A **MOTION** was made by Alex Korin and **SECONDED** by Ira Miller to support Special Article 2. Bond money in the amount of \$621,499.
25. **VOTED:** 8-0-0. For: Agulnek, Brack, Cohen, Gladstone, Goodman, Korin, Miller, Philips.
26. Special Article 3. Snow & Ice. Hold.

27. A **MOTION** was made by Alex Korin and **SECONDED** by Gordon Gladstone to support Special Article 4. Transfer of funds to close capital project deficit in the amount of \$733,798.74.
28. **VOTED:** 8-0-0. For: Agulnek, Brack, Cohen, Gladstone, Goodman, Korin, Miller, Philips.
29. Special Article 5. Reserve money from one time cell tower revenue for use for the FY 2016 Appropriation. Hold pending Priorities amount.
30. Annual Town Meeting:
31. Article 1. Finance Committee Members. Hold.
32. A **MOTION** was made by Gordon Gladstone and **SECONDED** by Aaron Agulnek to support Article 2. Act upon Reports.
33. **VOTED:** 8-0-0. For: Agulnek, Brack, Cohen, Gladstone, Goodman, Korin, Miller, Philips.
34. A **MOTION** was made by Gordon Gladstone and **SECONDED** by Aaron Agulnek to support Article 3. Existing cell tower lease authorizations.
35. **VOTED:** 8-0-0. For: Agulnek, Brack, Cohen, Gladstone, Goodman, Korin, Miller, Philips.
36. Article 4. Personnel By-law. Hold.
37. Article 5. Budget & Compensation of Elected Officials. Hold.
38. A **MOTION** was made by Gordon Gladstone and **SECONDED** by Ted Philips to support Article 6. Capital Outlay Requests in the total amount of \$1,985,100.
39. A suggestion was made to hold until next Monday until Gordon Gladstone's write up.
40. Gordon Gladstone withdrew his motion.
41. Article 7. CPC Annual Funding & Projects. Hold.
42. A **MOTION** was made by Gordon Gladstone and **SECONDED** by Aaron Agulnek to support Article 8. Norfolk County Retirement.
43. **VOTED:** 8-0-0. For: Agulnek, Brack, Cohen, Gladstone, Goodman, Korin, Miller, Philips.
44. A **MOTION** was made by Gordon Gladstone and **SECONDED** by Aaron Agulnek to support Article 9. Unemployment Fund.
45. **VOTED:** 8-0-0. For: Agulnek, Brack, Cohen, Gladstone, Goodman, Korin, Miller, Philips.
46. Article 10. OPEB Funds. Hold pending Priorities.
47. Article 11. Stabilization Fund. Hold pending Priorities.

48. A **MOTION** was made by Gordon Gladstone and **SECONDED** by Aaron Agulnek to support Article 12. Revolving Fund Authorizations (new revolving fund for water service replacement).
49. **VOTED:** 8-0-0. For: Agulnek, Brack, Cohen, Gladstone, Goodman, Korin, Miller, Philips.
50. A **MOTION** was made by Gordon Gladstone and **SECONDED** by Aaron Agulnek to support Article 13. Property Tax Exemptions – Veterans, Blind, Disabled & Others Qualified.
51. **VOTED:** 8-0-0. For: Agulnek, Brack, Cohen, Gladstone, Goodman, Korin, Miller, Philips.
52. A **MOTION** was made by Gordon Gladstone and **SECONDED** by Aaron Agulnek to support Article 14. Sharon Friends School Fund Records & Appointments.
53. **VOTED:** 8-0-0. For: Agulnek, Brack, Cohen, Gladstone, Goodman, Korin, Miller, Philips.
54. A **MOTION** was made by Gordon Gladstone and **SECONDED** by Aaron Agulnek to support Article 15. Annual Audit.
55. **VOTED:** 8-0-0. For: Agulnek, Brack, Cohen, Gladstone, Goodman, Korin, Miller, Philips.
56. A **MOTION** was made by Gordon Gladstone and **SECONDED** by Aaron Agulnek to support Article 16. Petition to Legislature re: abatement for 9 Glendale Road (FY'07-FY'10) in the amount of \$5,401.77.
57. **VOTED:** 7-0-1. For: Agulnek, Brack, Cohen, Gladstone, Goodman, Korin, Miller. Abstain: Philips.
58. A **MOTION** was made by Arnold Cohen and **SECONDED** by Gordon Gladstone to support Article 17. Accept a deed in lieu of foreclosure – 20 Tracey Lane.
59. **VOTED:** 8-0-0. For: Agulnek, Brack, Cohen, Gladstone, Goodman, Korin, Miller, Philips.
60. Article 18. Civil Service Rescission. Hold.
61. The next meeting will be on March 30, 2015.
62. It was **MOVED** and **SECONDED** to adjourn.
63. **VOTED:** 8-0-0.
64. The meeting was adjourned at 11 p.m.